SCS

PRESENTS

NOBUNAGA NO CHEF

CREDITS

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ISBN978-4-8322-3261-7
C9979 ¥590E
雑誌 50525-67
定価：本体590円+税

The present day cook, Ken. When he woke up, he found himself in the Warring States Period. But then, the powerful Lord Nobunaga, who hears the rumors of the capital's famous cuisine, forces Ken into becoming his personal chef...?! The unprecedented gourmet of the Warring States Period!

美味しいコミック、召し上がれ！
HOUBUNSHA COMICS
チーズの向こう
山口よしのぶ 原作 花形怜 作
珈琲とりーと
ツジメひおる 原作 花形怜 作
茶柱倶楽部
茶柱倶楽部
ラスヴェル綴木
西ゆうじ
田名登雲 原作 西ゆうじ
河内遙
もろなが秀美 原案 花形怜 作
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『信長のシェフ』単行本は週刊漫画TIMESに掲載された作品を収録したものです。

信長のシェフ

原作 西村ミツル　漫画 梶川卓郎

A CHEF OF NOBUNAGA

STORY BY MITSURU NISHIMURA
COMIC BY TAKURO KAJIKAWA

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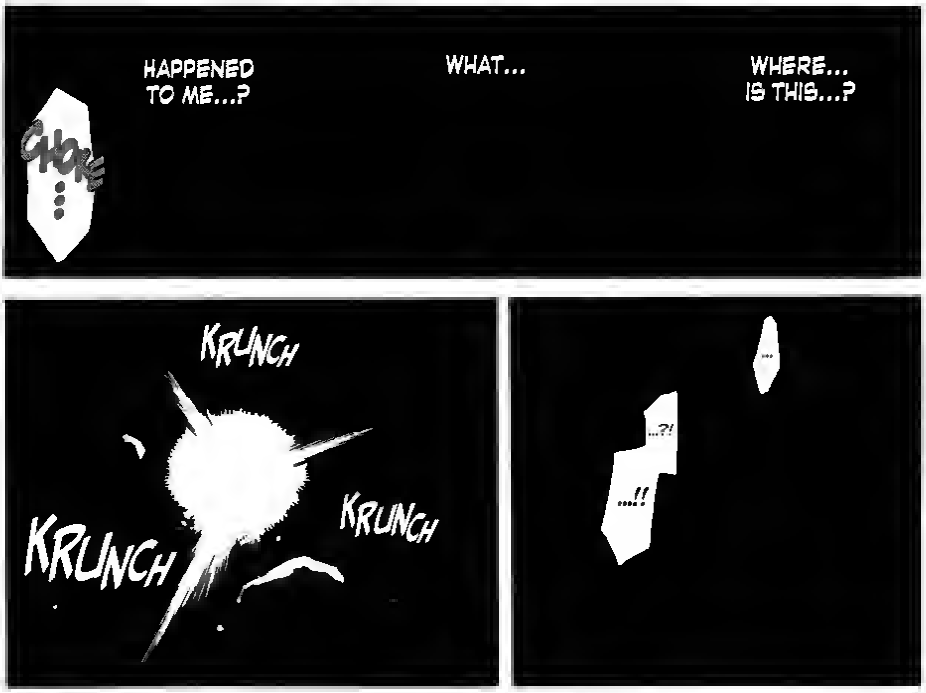
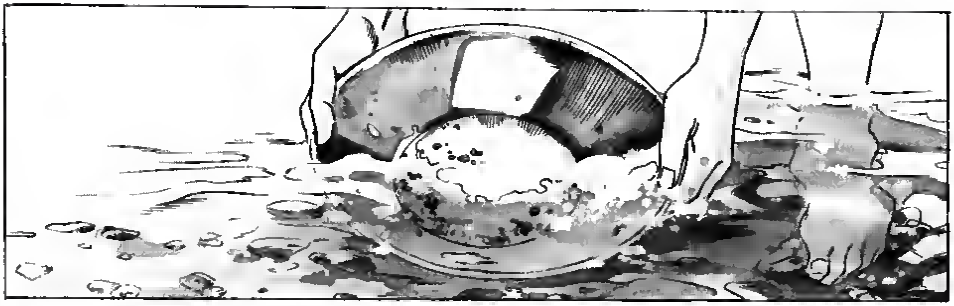
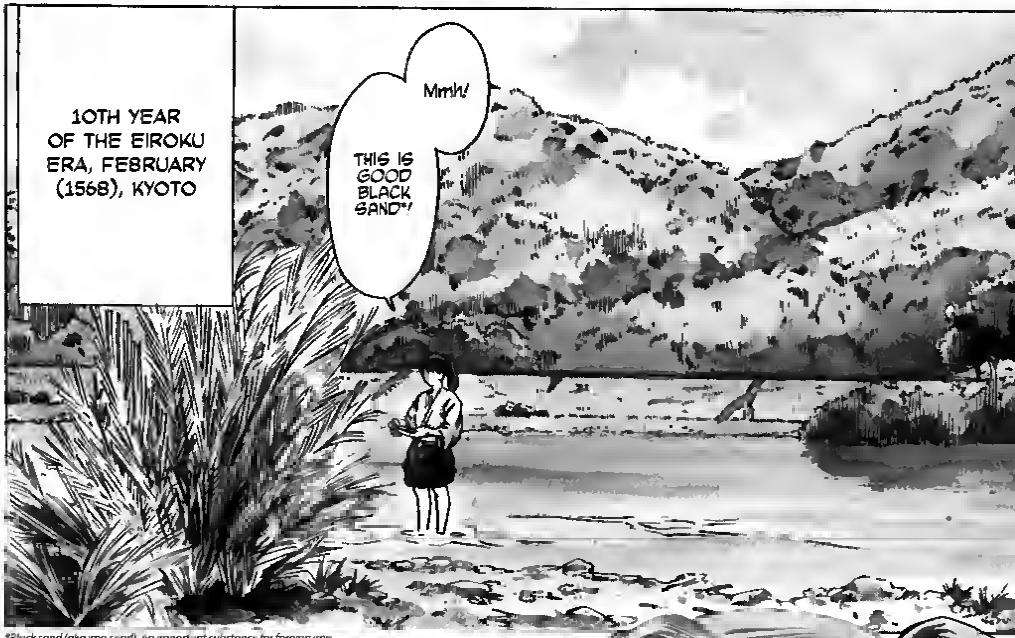
*This story is a work of fiction and does not always accurately reflect history

IT'S DARK.

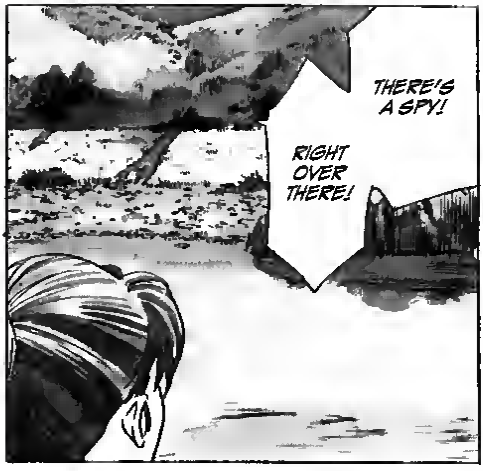


Chapter 1 The Place Where He Awakes





*Black sand (aka iron sand): An important substance for forging iron

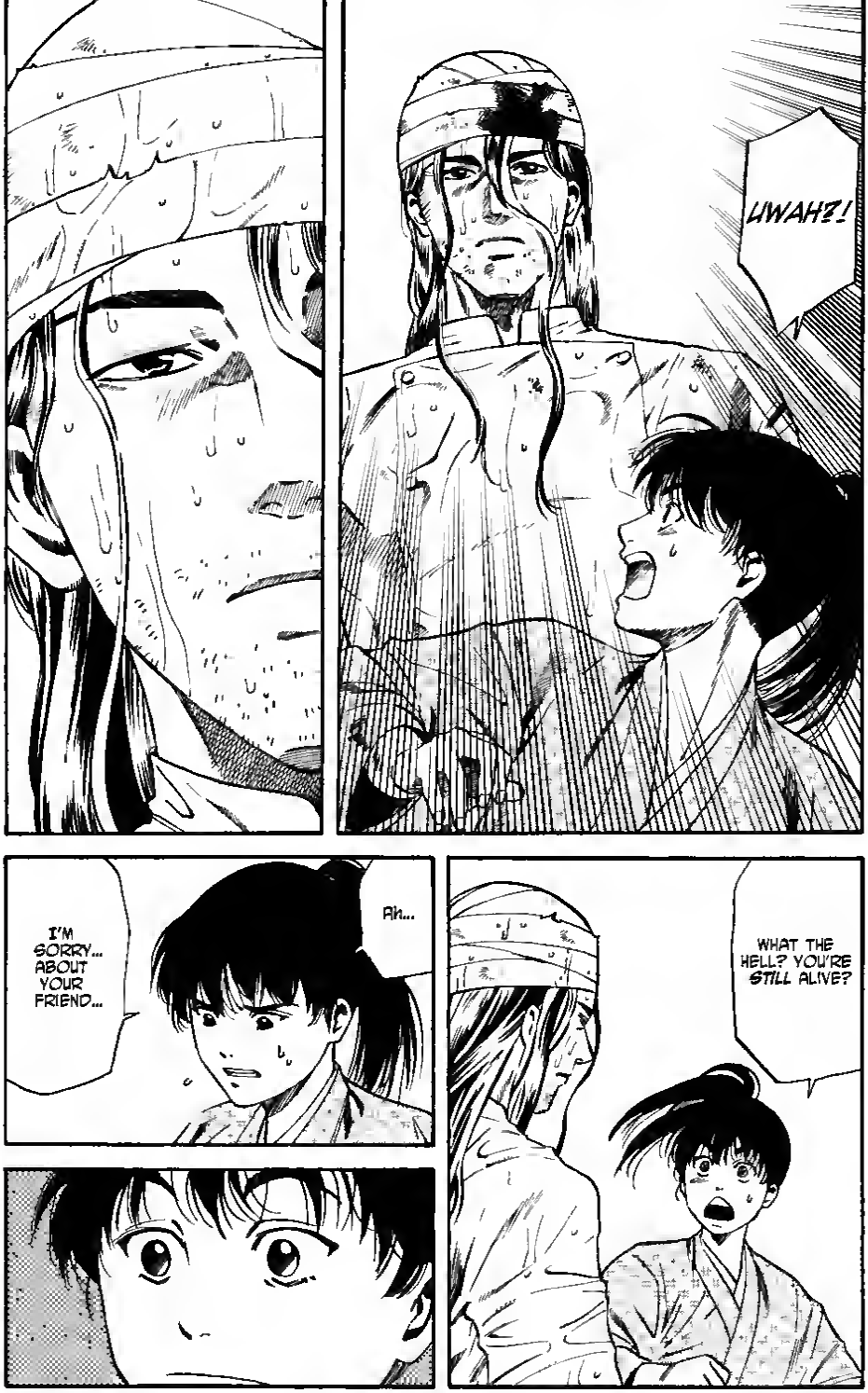


RUSTLE
THAT MUST BE MIYOSHI'S MILITIA.
I DON'T RECOGNIZE...
...THE STRANGE CLOTHING OF THE PEOPLE BEING CHASED.
HALT!
SO YOU'RE HEADING THIS WAY, HUH?
SLIDE
KEN! JUMP IN THE RIV---
HII---!

...
PU
OH
HAAAG
GO... NOW...
TO RETURN TO THE HEISEI PERIOD!
GET AWAY... KEN.
YOU HAVE TO LIVE ON...!

AAH...!
WHOOSH
THUMP...
THERE'S JUST ONE OF THEM LEFT!
SPLASH
WHAT A FOOL.
IF HE JUMPS INTO THE RIVER IN THIS COLD, HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT OUT ALIVE.
GO BACK... KEN..
I WANNA GO... BACK.
MIO...KO... DADDY'S COMING HOME...
HE'S... COMING...

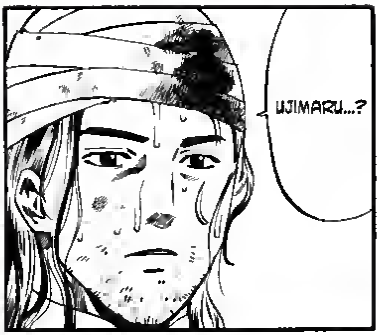
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE CORPSE?
JUST LEAVE IT IN THE LAKE.
THERE WERE THREE OTHERS, WEREN'T THERE..? LET'S SMOKE THEM OUT!
DOBO
HOW CRUEL...
SPLASH
SPLASH


UWAH?!
I'M SORRY... ABOUT YOUR FRIEND...
Ah...
WHAT THE HELL? YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?

HAHAHAHA! YOU WENT TO CATCH A UJIMARU WHEN YOUR LIFE WAS IN DANGER?!
AHA HA HA HA HA WHAT AN INTERESTING GUY!
Phoo...
ANYWAY, FOR NOW, LET'S JUST GET YOU TO MY PLACE BEFORE YOU FREEZE TO DEATH.
Aha... Haa...

THE UJIMARU

IT'S SAID THAT THIS IS WHAT UNAGI (EEL) WERE CALLED, AS UNAGI WERE CAUGHT IN THE RIVER UJI NEAR KYOTO DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIDD.

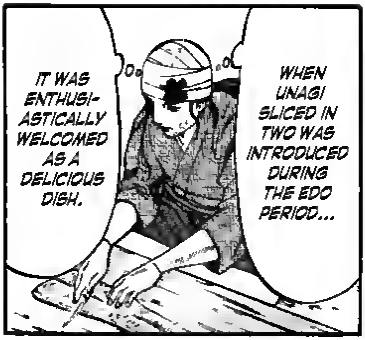


IT'S BECAUSE MY BROTHER WAS PRETTY SHORT...
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.
THAT'S ONE GREAT SULKY FACE!
HE HE HE

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO'S FORGING THE KATANA, NATSU-SAN?
I'M NATSU.
AND YOU ARE...?
I FORGE STEEL BY WORKING BLACK SAND AND CHARCOAL IN THE BELLOWS.
THEN, BY BEATING THE STEEL, I MAKE IT INTO KATANA.
AND TODAY, I WENT OUT TO GATHER THAT BLACK SAND.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M THE MAN WHO WILL BECOME *THE BEST* BLACKSMITH IN KYOTO!
...
WHERE I'M FROM...?
AND WHO ARE YOU?
YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS KEN, BUT WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

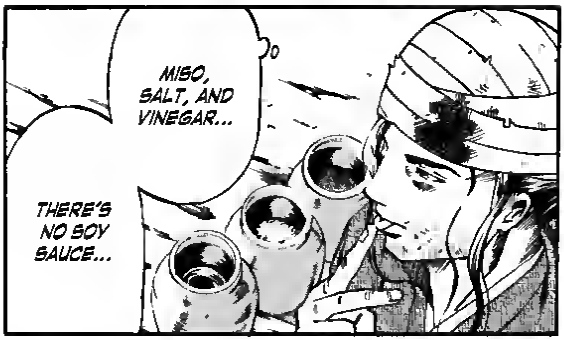
IT SEEMED LIKE THAT GUY WHO WAS RUNNING WITH ME KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT ME, BUT HE'S...
YEAH...
NOT A THING! NOT EVEN YOUR PARENTS OR HOMETOWN, OR EVEN ABOUT YOURSELF?!
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?!
COOK--!
THESE THINGS TASTE PRETTY GOOD IF YOU BROIL THEM. LET ME GO COOK IT.
WELL, FOR THE MOMENT, LET'S JUST EAT THIS UJIMARU.

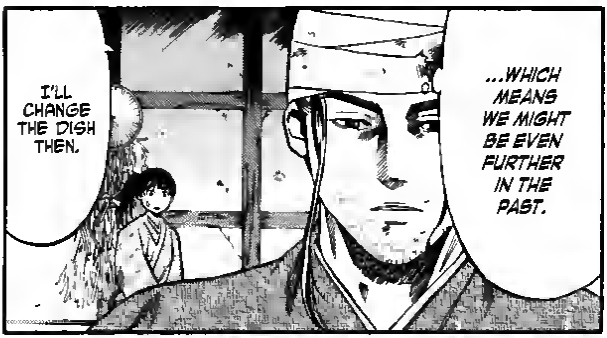
PLEASE...
LET ME!
THWOK
SQUE
EZE
FWI
SH
THIS MAN IS SKILLED!
TO BE ABLE TO CLEANLY SLICE THE UJIMARU WITH A SHORT KNIFE DESPITE HOW SLIPPERY IT IS...
SPREADING OUT THE OPENED UJIMARU...?



BULLRUSH EEL

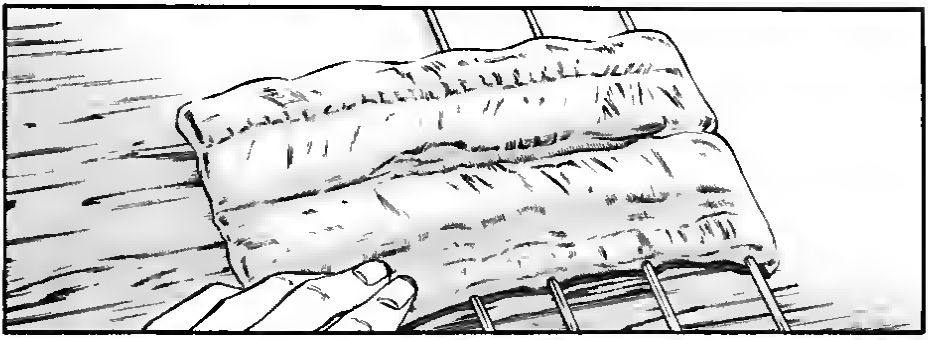
DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIOD UNAGI (EEL) WAS USUALLY EATEN IN CHUNKS, INSTEAD OF OPENED DOWN THE CENTRE. THE CHUNKS WERE THEN SPITTED AND STUCK OVER AN OPEN FIRE. BECAUSE THIS RESEMBLED BULLRUSHES, IT CAME TO BE CALLED BULLRUSH GRILLING.





SOY SAUCE

IT CAME INTO COMMON USE AROUND THE YEAR 1580.



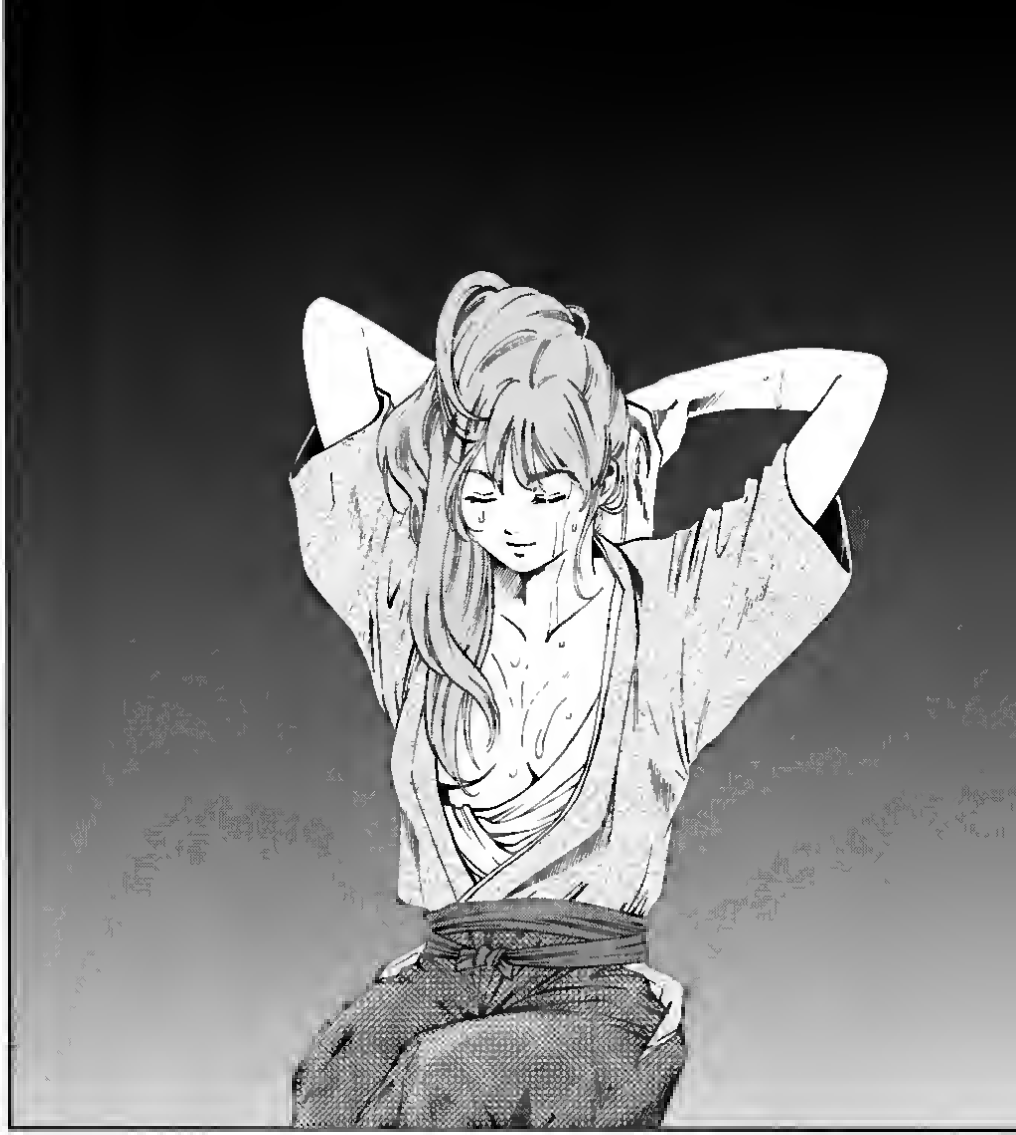
...AND EVEN ABOUT THIS ERA'S HISTORY...!
I KNOW ABOUT COOKING...
GLARE
THIS KNOWLEDGE I HAVE...
WHERE'D I COME FROM...? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW...?
WHO...AM I? I STILL DON'T REMEMBER...
BUT...
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

THAT'S THE BEAM...
KEN... YOU'RE A GIANT!
NNG!...
BANG
SHOCK
THIS IS SALTED UJIMARU BAKED WITH LEEK...
GARNISHED WITH MISOAE.*
*A sauce made with miso and vinegar
DE--LICIOUS!

A CHEF...?
YOU MUST BE THE CHEF FROM A CASTLE SOMEWHERE!
NOM
YOU'RE A MASTER CHEF!
I'VE NEVER EATEN BONELESS UJIMARU THAT TASTED THIS LIGHT!
NOM
KEN, PLEASE COOK TOMORROW TOO!
ONLY GREAT LORDS ARE ABLE TO EAT THINGS THIS GOOD.
FOOL! THAT'S MY LINE.
THANK YOU, NATSU-SAN.

THREE MONTHS LATER
...
DINNER'S READY.
CLANG CLANG
BANG
I HEAR SOMETHING GOOD AGAIN TODAY!
YOU DID IT AGAIN...?
OH, CAN WE? WE WOULDN'T WANT TO IMPOSE...
IT'S A CARP AND BURDOCK PAELLA.
ARE YOU ALL GOING TO EAT...?
AAH, IT SMELLS SO GOOD!
WHICH MEANS THAT DINNER'S READY!
WHAT'S ON THE MENU TODAY?

Geez...
IT'S LIKE WE'VE JUST BECOME KEN'S RESTAURANT OR SOMETHING.
SWIP...



SLAM

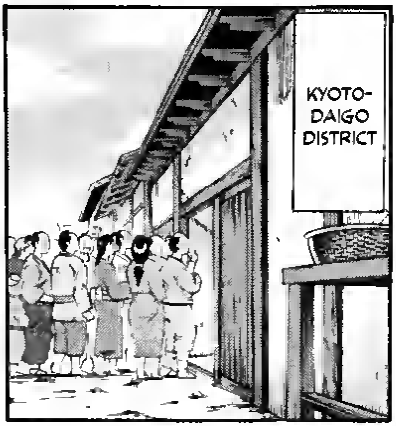
FWP
AH....!
CLACK
I JUST WANTED TO BRING YOUR SHARE.

TWIST
KEN... I...!
MY GRATITUDE TO YOU FOR TAKING ME IN REMAINS THE SAME.
NATSU-SAN IS NATSU-SAN, WHETHER YOU'RE A MAN OR A WOMAN.

11TH YEAR OF THE EIROKU ERA, SEPTEMBER.
THE ERA WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE DRAMATICALLY.
FOUR MONTHS LATER
THE DAIMYO LORDS OF THE VARIOUS LANDS GATHERED TO SUPPORT THE SHOGUN, ASHIKAGA YOSHIAKI, IN RETAKING THE SEAT OF POWER IN KYOTO.
AND SWIFTLY, THEY DEFEATED THE MIYOSHI RULERS WHO CONTROLLED SETTSU AND KYOTO.
...TOOK HIS SEAT OF POWER IN KYOTO'S KIYOMIZU* TEMPLE
THEN THE MAN WHO WAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THEIR FORCES...

*This is a well-known event in Japanese history where Oda Nobunaga, the man pictured here, installed the last Ashikaga shogun as a puppet ruler

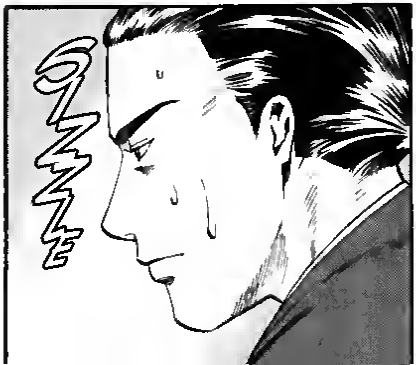
SIZ ZLE


KYOTO-DAIGO DISTRICT

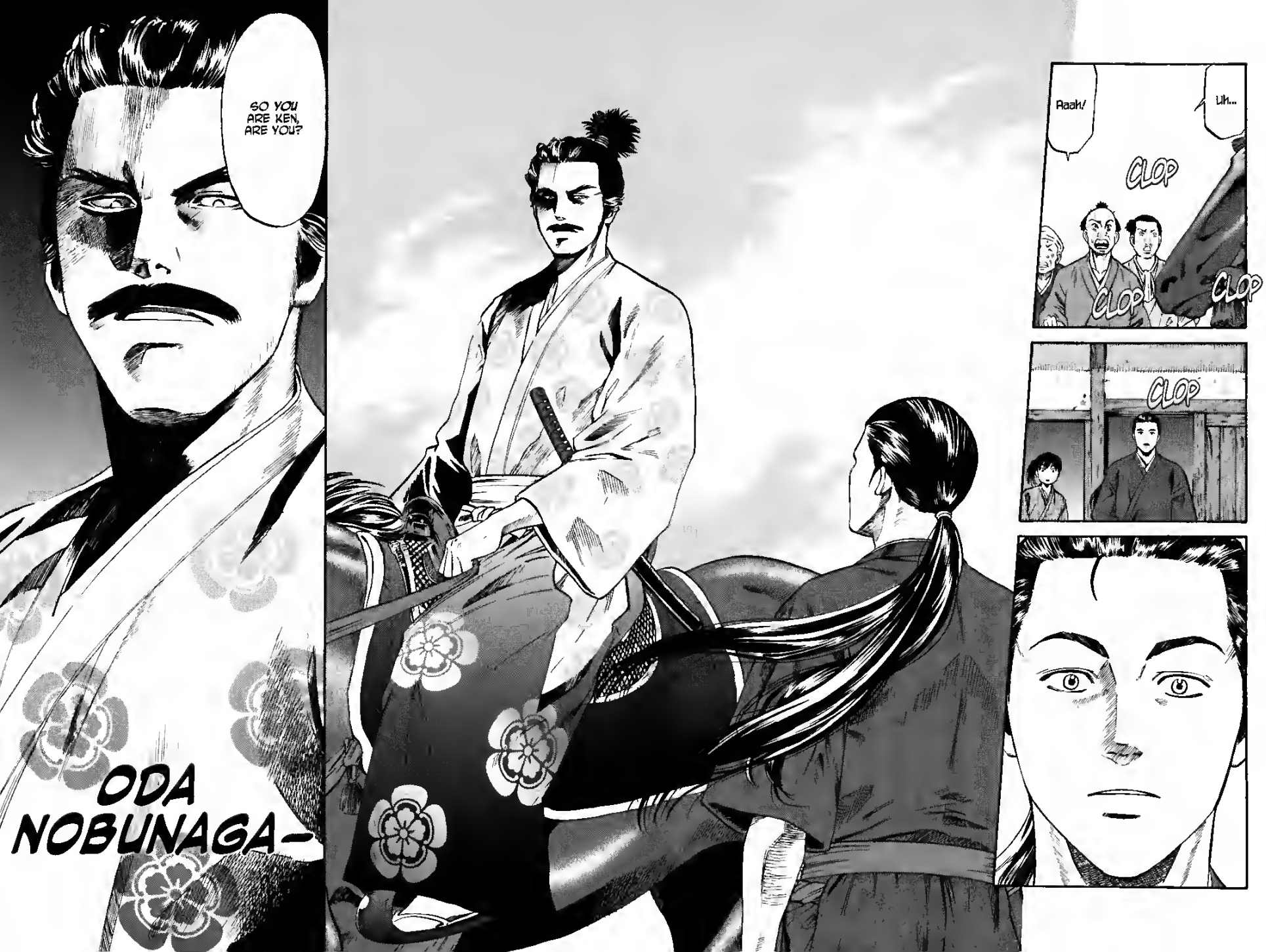
DELICIOUS!
I'VE NEVER EATEN ANYTHING THIS GOOD... THE DUCK'S JUICES SEEM TO SEE RIGHT THROUGH THE FRIED RICE!
SO THIS IS THE CAPITAL'S FAMOUS DUCK RICE BUN.

KEN'S REALLY AMAZING, ISN'T HE?!

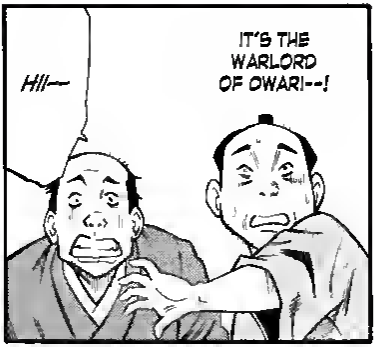
OH DEAR. I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE FOOD BUSINESS WOULD BE BUSIER THAN THE SMITHY.

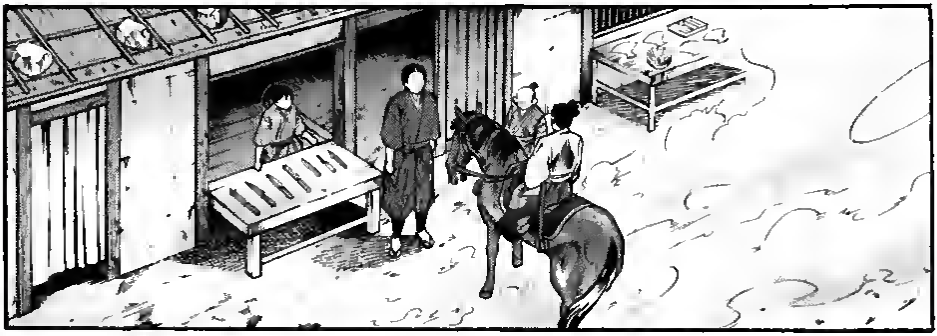

SIZZLE

SO YOU ARE THE MASTER CHEF THEY CALL KEN?!
I'M NEXT IN LINE!
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
I WAS HERE FIRST!
WAAH!
HEY...
MOVE OVER.
...YOU SURE HAVE A PUSHY SHOUT.
FOR SOMEONE I HAVEN'T SEEN AROUND HERE BEFORE...
HUH...? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, MIDGET...?
I WAS HERE FIRST!
MY LORD! I FOUND THIS KEN PERSON!
O...
OWARI?!
OWARI...
WELL, SORRY FOR THAT THEN. I'M JUST A COUNTRY BUMPKIN FROM NAKAMURA, IN OWARI, AFTER ALL.

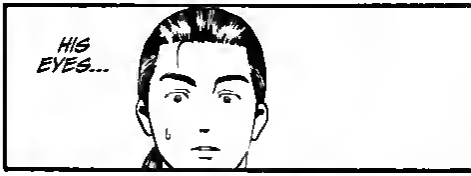

SO YOU ARE KEN, ARE YOU?
ODA NOBUNAGA—
Aaah!
Uh...
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

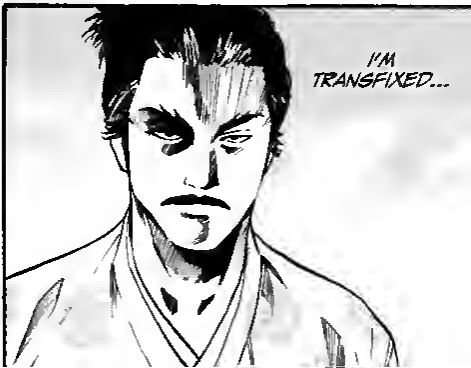
WAA!!
R-RUN AWAY!


HII—
IT'S THE WARLORD OF OWARI--!



KEN...
WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?


HIS EYES...

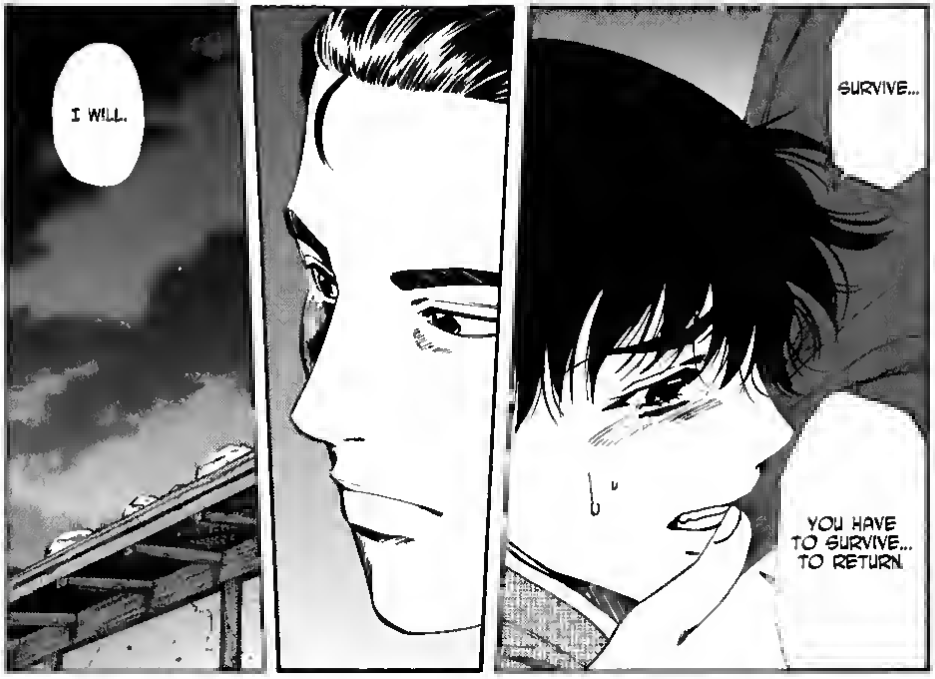

I'M TRANSFIXED...

UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORY OF THOSE.
GODS OR BUDDHA?
MAYBE YOU HAVE FAMILY?
.....
NOTHING SPECIAL..
I SHALL BE RETURNING TO GIFU PRESENTLY.
AND I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE YOU WITH ME.
I LIKE THAT.
GRIN
ANYONE WHO OBJECTS SHALL BE EXECUTED.
SHOUT
WAIT, WAIT! YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE HIM SO SUDDENLY...!

SHOCK
INCLUDING YOU, GIRL.
KEN...
I'LL... I'LL GO.
SO THIS GUY... MUST BE TOYOTOMI HIDEYOSHI...
SARU...
SARU, I'M GOING ON AHEAD. YOU'D BETTER MAKE SURE TO BRING THIS MAN WITH YOU AFTER YOU FINISH CLEARING OUT THE CAPITAL.
YES, SIR!
STIFF

YOU... FINISHED ALREADY?
CLACK
CLACK
THIS KNIFE SET...
IS SOMETHING THAT I MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU.

THIS IS YOUR KATANA!
GO FIGHT YOUR BATTLES WITH THIS, AND COME BACK TO ME!
NATSU-SAN, THANK YOU.


I WILL.
SURVIVE...
YOU HAVE TO SURVIVE... TO RETURN.

GIFU CASTLE
OVER HERE, COME IN.
WHY WOULD HE BRING ME TO HIS CASTLE...?
NOBUNAGA...
OH! SO KEN HAS ARRIVED.
SLAM
I-IT'S THE LORD!
PLEASE FORGIVE THE MESS IN THE KITCHENS...!

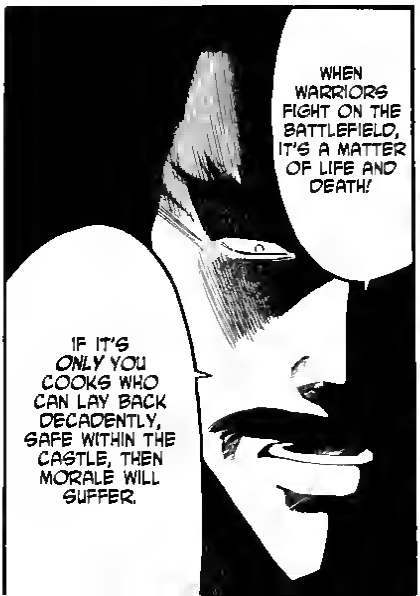
ALL OF YOU, LISTEN UP!
THE KITCHENS... SO HE WANTS ME TO BE HIS CHEF AFTER ALL...
FROM THIS DAY FORTH, THIS MAN, KEN, WILL BE THE NEW HEAD CHEF!
EH?!!

WHO IS THIS MAN?!
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MY FAMILY HAS SERVED THE ODA AS MASTERS OF THE KITCHEN FOR GENERATIONS!

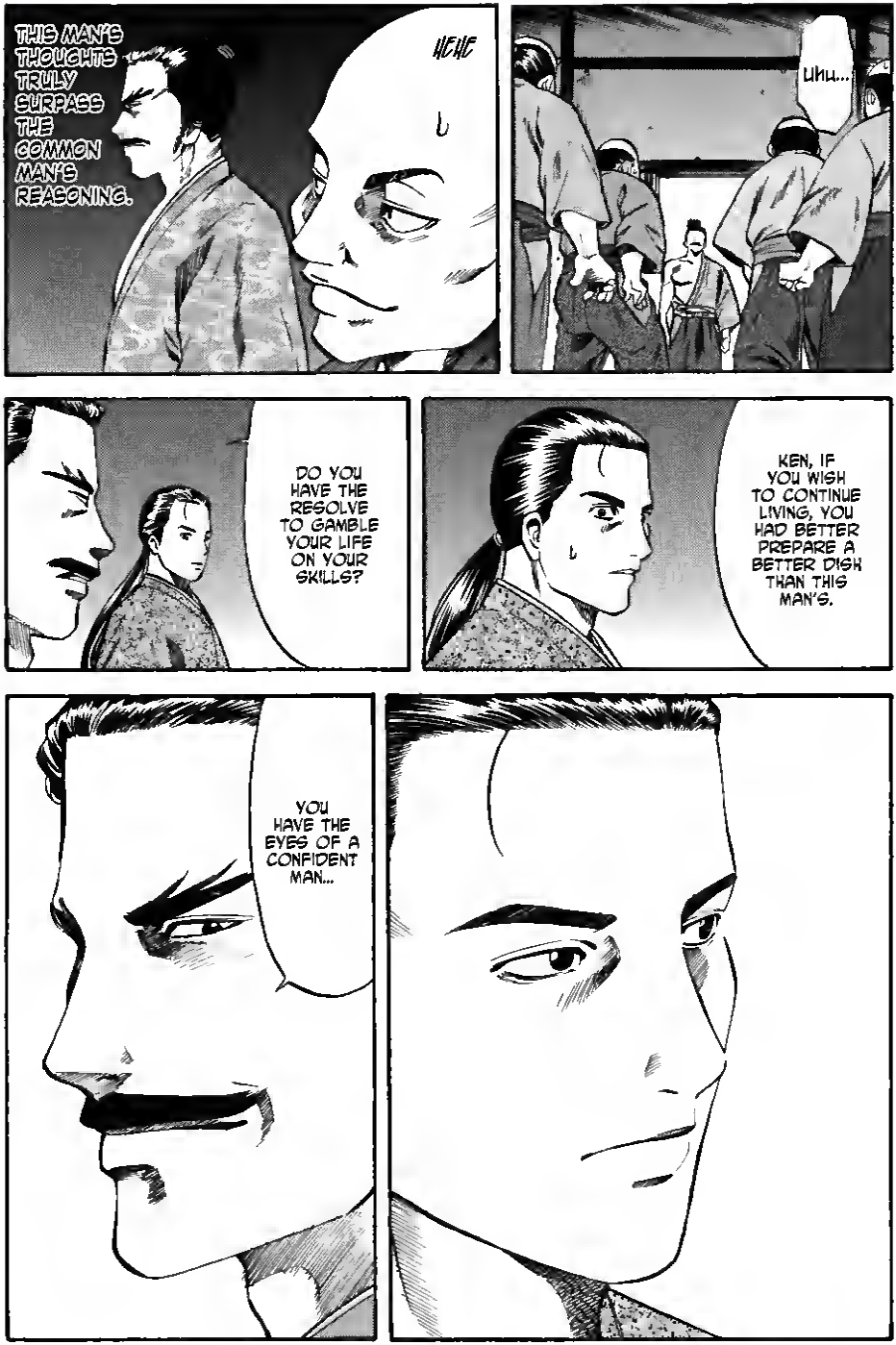
M-MY LORD, PLEASE RECONSIDER!

THEN YOU SHOULD COMPETE AGAINST THIS MAN WITH YOUR COOKING.

I, INOUE KYONOSUKE, TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN MY POSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS AS HEAD CHEF.


WHEN WARRIORS FIGHT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
IF IT'S *ONLY* YOU COOKS WHO CAN LAY BACK DECADENTLY, SAFE WITHIN THE CASTLE, THEN MORALE WILL SUFFER.

WHAT....?!
HOWEVER, IT SHALL BE A TRUE DUEL...
...UNTO THE *DEATH.*


THIS MAN'S THOUGHTS TRULY SURPASS THE COMMON MAN'S REASONING.
HEHE
UHU...
DO YOU HAVE THE RESOLVE TO GAMBLE YOUR LIFE ON YOUR SKILLS?
KEN, IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE LIVING, YOU HAD BETTER PREPARE A BETTER DISH THAN THIS MAN'S.
YOU HAVE THE EYES OF A CONFIDENT MAN...

THE COMPETITION WILL BE OVER DUCK, WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN SEASON.
DON
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, YOU ARE AT WAR!
MAY THE BEST MAN WIN!
YOU HAVE TO SURVIVE... TO RETURN.
KEN...
YES!
BRING THE DUCK, QUICKLY!
PREPARE LEEKS AND CARROTS.
IS THIS KATANA AND MY COOKING SKILLS.
ALL I HAVE TO SUPPORT ME...

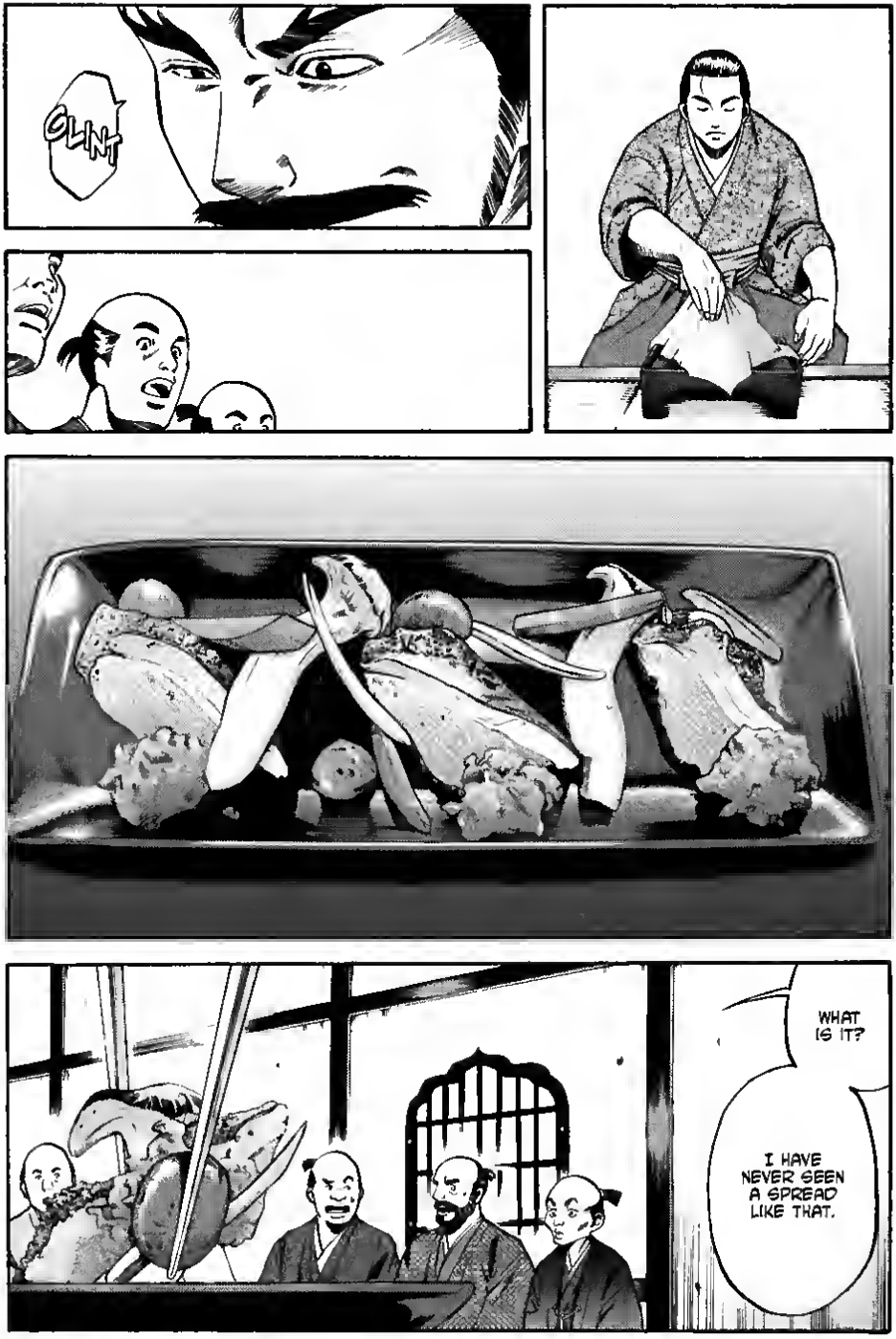
I SHOULD SEPARATE THE BREAST AND THE THIGHS.
TO CUT IT...
THIS IS A GOOD DUCK...
SO...
THERE'S OBVIOUSLY...
NO WINE HERE.
AND PLACE IT IN THE PAN.
THEN RUB SALT INTO THE MEAT..
UWAH?!
A FLAMBÉ WITH SAKE.

THERE IS NO WAY I'LL LOSE TO A FRAUD LIKE THAT.
I AM A MAN WHO HAS ALWAYS FOLLOWED THE HIGHEST OF CULINARY TRADITIONS.
YOU FOOL, HE'S JUST SHOWING OFF!
WHAT'S GOING ON THERE...?!
STAY FOCUSED!
THEN I'LL SAUTÉ CHESTNUTS AND MUSHROOMS IN THE DUCK'S FAT.
FIRST, I'LL PUREE THE PERSIM-MON...
THE KATANA... AND MY SKILLS.
SLICE
NOW TO SLICE THE MEAT THAT WAS SET ASIDE.
DON
IT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO COUNT ON.

SO I WANTED TO SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT KIND OF POWER HE HAD.
BUT I'D HEARD THAT THIS KEN'S COOKING HAD CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF THE KYOTO POPULATION.
I HONESTLY NEVER THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT WHAT I ATE.
SARU... I ONLY LOOK FORWARD.
THIS IS RATHER HARSH FOR INOUE THOUGH...
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN BEING SHACKLED BY OBSOLETE TRADITIONS.
AND TOMORROW IS BRIGHTER THAN TODAY.
TODAY IS BRIGHTER THAN YESTER-DAY...

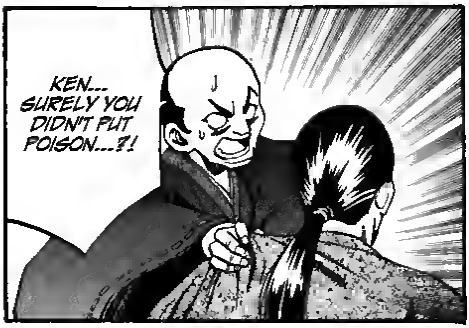
PLEASE, START WITH MINE...

THIS IS THE FINEST DUCK SOUP UNDER HEAVEN.
MUN
CH
SUU
RP
Ooh! THOSE ARE LEEKS, BURDOCK ROOT, CARROT, AND GOLD DUSTING ON TOP OF THE DUCK MEAT BALL.
AND THE COLORS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
NOW, THE NEXT ONE.
Mmh...


GLINT
WHAT IS IT?
I HAVE NEVER SEEN A SPREAD LIKE THAT.

MUNCH
MUNCH
CLICK
CLACK

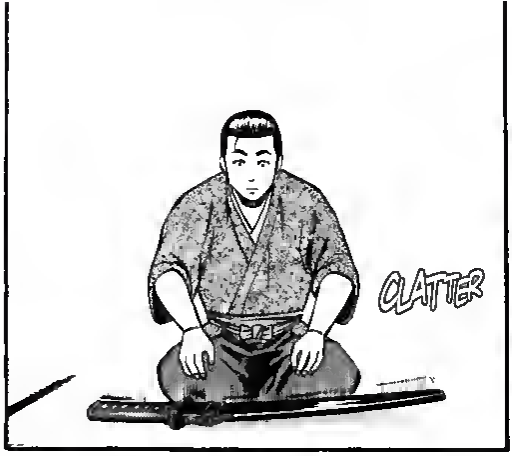
M-MY LORD?!


KEN... SURELY YOU DIDN'T PUT POISON...?!

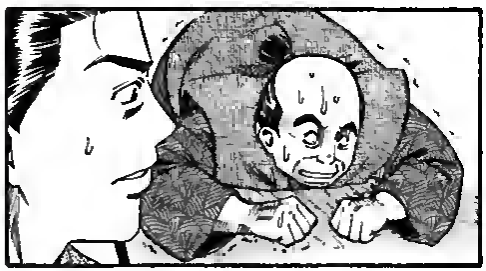
HALT!

KEN...
WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS FOOD?
MY LORD...?
HUH?

EVEN THE NAME IS UNORTHODOX.
TO PUT SO MANY INGREDIENTS ON ONE PLATE AND EAT THEM TOGETHER-- THIS IS TRULY DIFFERENT.
IT'S ROASTED DUCK SERVED WITH A PERSIMMON SAUCE AND A CHESTNUT AND VEGETABLE ACCOMPANIMENT.
THAT WAS SPLENDID!
BUT DELICIOUS.
TRULY DELICIOUS.
THE MATCH HAS BEEN DECIDED.


CLATTER

HIIIAH...!
KEN, EXECUTE INOUE.



KEN, YOU HAVE TO LIVE ON...!
TRMBL!
TRMBL!
WOO!
DO IT NOW!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, KILL HIM.
YOU DISAPPOINT ME...
I... CAN'T.
WHACK

I AM NOT SO PATIENT A MAN...
SLIDE
HII...!
YOU DARE STAND IN MY WAY...

FRE
EZE
YOU...
...CAN'T.
THEN YOU TOO SHALL DIE!
I KNOW YOUR REPUTATION AS A COLD AND RUTHLESS AUTOCRAT...
BUT I ALSO KNOW YOU'RE A PRAGMATIC REALIST TOO.
YOU CAN'T KILL ME.
'CAUSE I'M TOO VALUABLE TO YOU.

SO YOU CLAIM TO BE ABLE TO MAKE MORE DELICACIES BESIDES THIS?
OF COURSE...
HUNDREDS OF THEM.
Hmph...
SMART.
IN THAT CASE, GO MAKE ANOTHER RIGHT NOW.
BUT THIS ONE BETTER BE MORE THAN SIMPLY DELICIOUS.
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, NOBUNAGA WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ALWAYS EATEN YUZUKE BEFORE GOING INTO BATTLE.
Phew...
HIS TEMPER IS JUST AS SHORT AS THEY SAY IN THE HISTORY BOOKS.
WIPE
WIPE

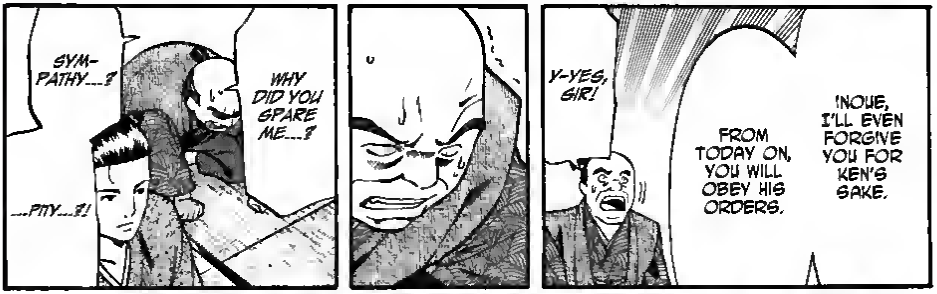
EUREKA
HMM,
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
PLEASE.

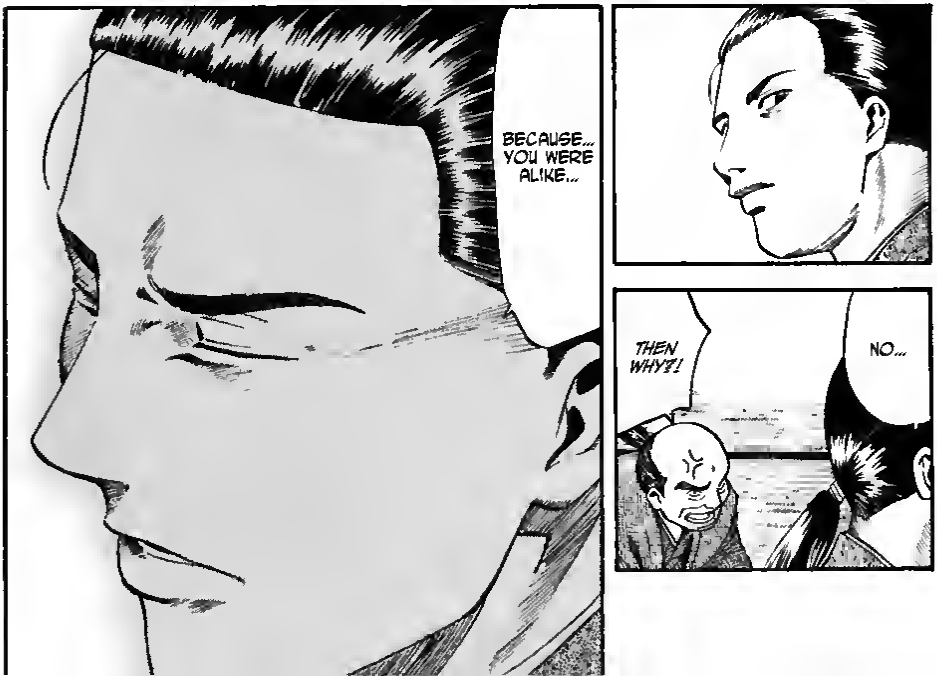
ARE YOU KIDDING ME...?!
CLANK
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT!
CLACK
HE JUST BROUGHT FRIED RICE?
TRICKLE

WOOOOW
WOAH?! THERE'S FILLING INSIDE?!
HMM... VERY FRAGRANT!
YET AGAIN, YOU PRESENT SOMETHING DELICIOUS THAT I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
BUT...!
I MADE THE FILLING BY FRYING FINELY SLICED DUCK, CARROT, DAIKON AND MUSHROOMS...
...AND THEN, STUFFED IT INSIDE A BALL OF RICE.

BY FRYING THE BALL OF RICE, IT CAN BE PRESERVED FOR A LONG TIME, AND BY POURING BOILING WATER OVER IT, IT CAN BE QUICKLY AND CONVENIENTLY MADE INTO A HOT MEAL.
BY TAKING THIS ON CAMPAIGNS, THIS CAN BECOME A FOOD PREPARED IN AN INSTANT, EVEN FASTER AND MORE NUTRITIOUS THAN YUZUKE.
FOR CAMP AIGNS...

KEN, YOU SHALL BE MY HEAD CHEF!
BEAUTIFUL!
MORE THAN MERELY FOOD, THIS IS A WEAPON TO INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF MY ARMY!
BAM


SYM-PATHY....?
WHY DID YOU SPARE ME....?
....PITY....?!
Y-YES, SIR!
FROM TODAY ON, YOU WILL OBEY HIS ORDERS.
'NOUE, I'LL EVEN FORGIVE YOU FOR KEN'S SAKE.


BECAUSE... YOU WERE ALIKE...
THEN WHY?!
NO...

YOU HAVE TO LIVE ON...!
KEN...
I HAVE TO HAND IT TO YOU. ON TOP OF QUICK THINKING, YOU ALSO HAVE GUTS.
I EXPECT TO EAT SOMETHING DELICIOUS *EVERY* DAY NOW...
YOU UNDERSTAND... WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, RIGHT?
THE DAY YOU LEAVE MY SIDE, IS THE DAY YOU DIE.
FROM NOW ON, YOU ARE MINE.

KEN...
KEN...
NOD
...THIS WARRING STATES PERIOD...!
I'LL MAKE MY WAY THROUGH...

SCS

PRESENTS

NOBUNAGA NO CHEF

CREDITS

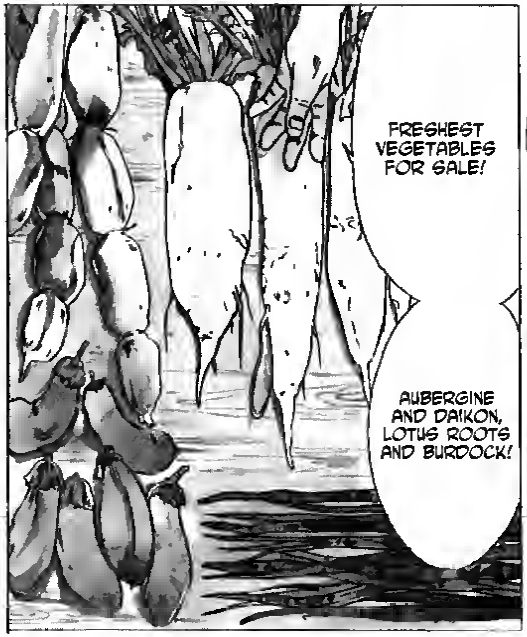
TRANSLATOR: TALLRICE

PROOFREADER: FALLACY

EDITOR: FALLACY

QC: PIMELEA

Chapter 2

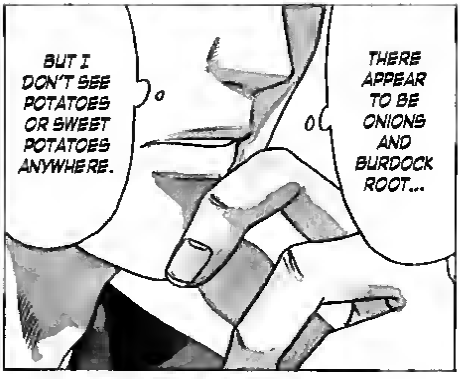


POTATO

THE POTATO CAME TO JAPAN ON DUTCH SHIPS FROM JAKARTA AROUND THE YEAR 1600.

SWEET POTATO

THE CULTIVATION OF SWEET POTATOES IN JAPAN BEGAN DURING THE EDO PERIOD.

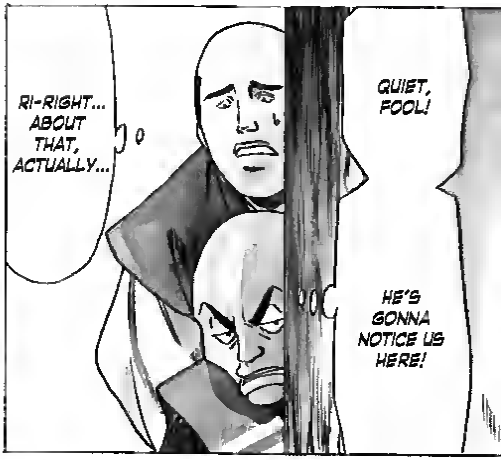


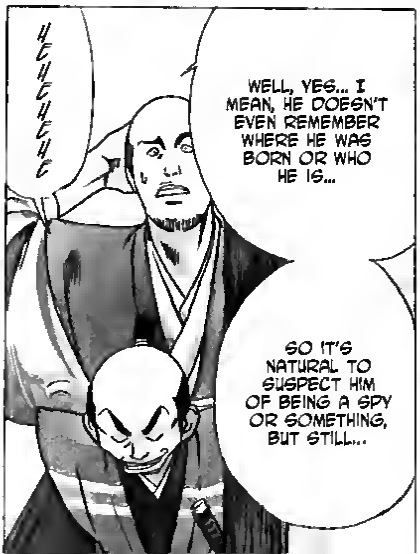
Chapter 2 The First Guest

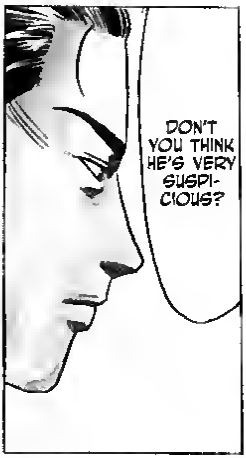
ALL OF IT, PLEASE.
WHAT?!
HIDEYOSHI-SAMA, HIDEYOSHI-SAMA!

THE EEL AND THE CATFISH...
...AS WELL AS THE CARP AND THE DRIED COD.

HIDEYOSHI-SAMA, WHY IS A MAN OF YOUR STATURE SHADOWING A LOWLY CHEF...?


QUIET, FOOL!
RI-RIGHT... ABOUT THAT, ACTUALLY...
HE'S GONNA NOTICE US HERE!


UCHUCHUCHU
WELL, YES... I MEAN, HE DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHERE HE WAS BORN OR WHO HE IS...
SO IT'S NATURAL TO SUSPECT HIM OF BEING A SPY OR SOMETHING, BUT STILL...

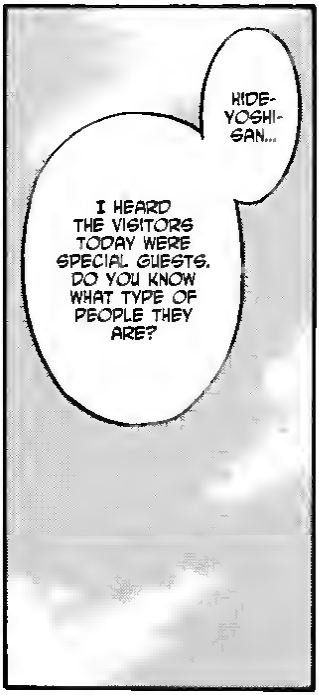

DON'T YOU THINK HE'S VERY SUSPI-CIOUS?

THAT NEW-COMER...

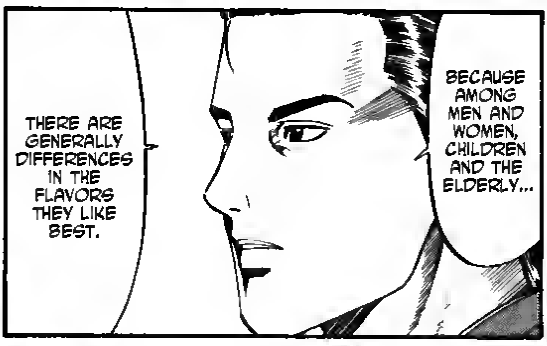
REALLY?!
A SPY FOR THE NANBAN* BARBARIANS PERHAPS?
HE MIGHT BE THE REAL DEAL...
SO HOW COULD I HAVE SO LITTLE CONSCIENCE AS TO BE LAX IN PROTECTING HIM?!
THE LORD IS BRAVE ENOUGH TO KEEP KEN BY HIS SIDE DESPITE BEING AWARE OF THE DANGERS!
I'M SURE OUR LORD HAS ALSO REALIZED THIS.
THIS KEN'S DISHES CARRY A FLAVOR REDOLENT OF THE NANBAN LANDS.
FOR WHEN I PROPOSED TAILING KEN, HE GLADLY CONSENTED.
HI-HI DEYOSHI-SAMA...
THEY'RE SO LOUD.
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
YOU SHOULD WATCH YOUR VOLUME

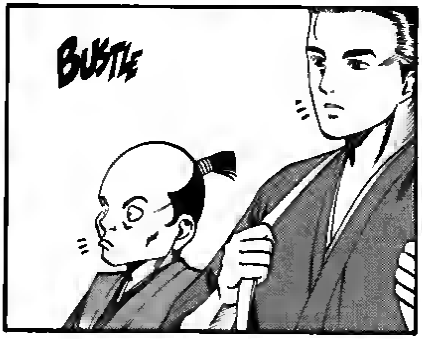
*T/N: In the 16th century, Portuguese, English and other Europeans began arriving in Japan by way of their trading posts and colonies in South East Asia. As they were first seen by the Japanese as purveyors of South East Asian goods, the Japanese used the old Chinese way of describing South East Asians: 'Nanban' (aka Southern barbarians).

WH-WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME SUCH A QUESTION?!

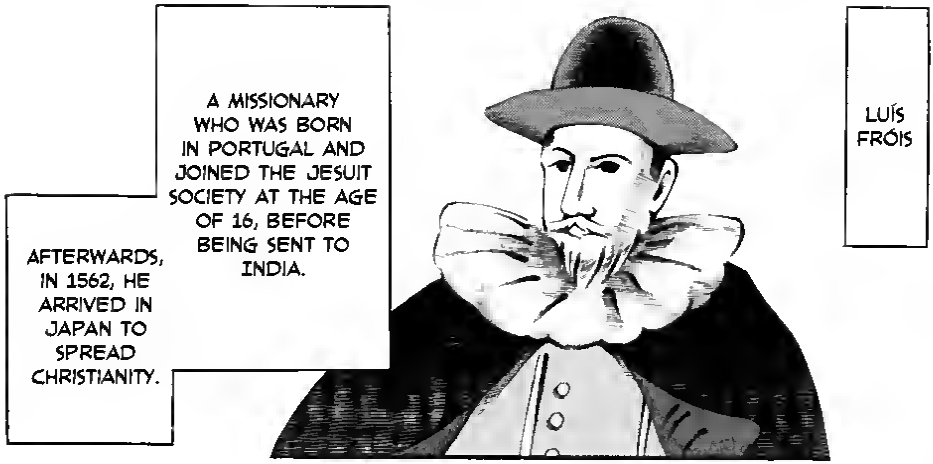

HIDE-YOSHI-SAN...
I HEARD THE VISITORS TODAY WERE SPECIAL GUESTS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE THEY ARE?

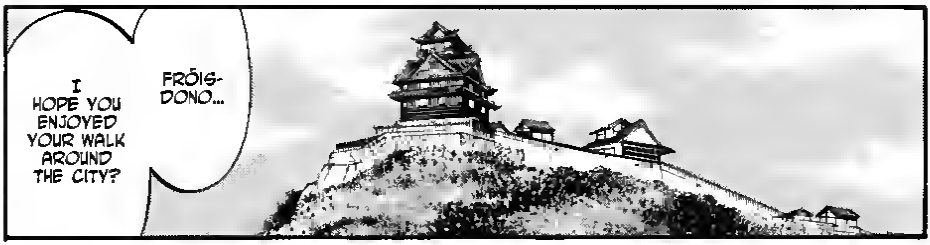
Hmm...

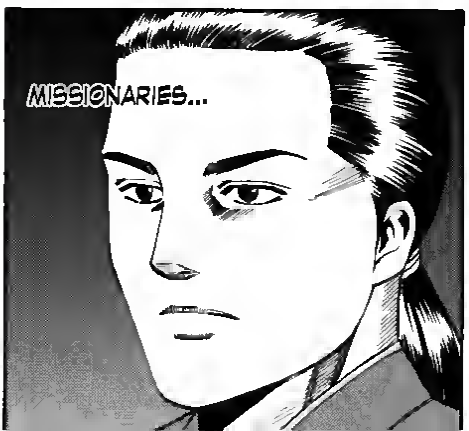

THERE ARE GENERALLY DIFFERENCES IN THE FLAVORS THEY LIKE BEST.
BECAUSE AMONG MEN AND WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY...


BUSTLE

KINOSHITA HIDEYOSHI-SAMA!
OH MY... IF IT ISN'T...


LUÍS FRÓIS
A MISSIONARY WHO WAS BORN IN PORTUGAL AND JOINED THE JESUIT SOCIETY AT THE AGE OF 16, BEFORE BEING SENT TO INDIA.
AFTERWARDS, IN 1562, HE ARRIVED IN JAPAN TO SPREAD CHRISTIANITY.


FRÓIG-DONO...
I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR WALK AROUND THE CITY?


MISSIONARIES...

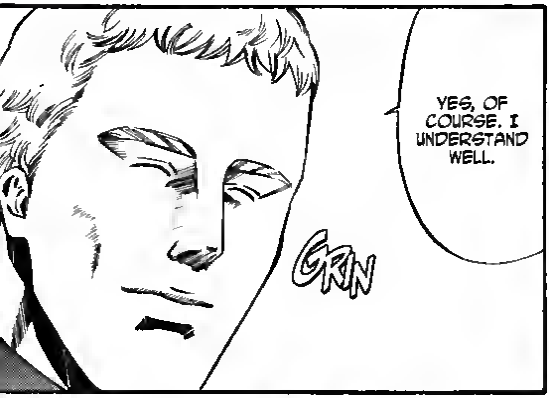
OH, THERE ARE LIVELY PLACES LIKE THIS IN NANBAN LANDS AS WELL, ARE THERE?
IT WAS VERY LIVELY, ALMOST LIKE IN BABYLON.

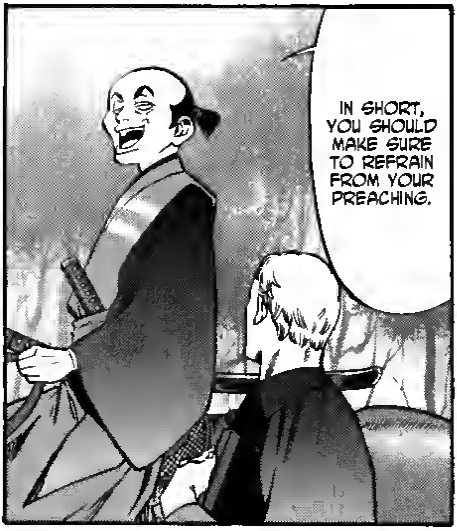
KEN, THOSE ARE OUR GUESTS TODAY.
AND HIS INTERPRETER, LORENZO...
FRÓIS...
BUT YOU, HE HAS DECIDED TO MEET THEM. DO YOU KNOW WHY?
I'LL LET YOU IN ON A SECRET... LORD NOBUNAGA ACTUALLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET FRÓIS AT NINO CASTLE IN THE CAPITAL, BUT DECLINED.
HE KNOWS THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PREPARE SOMETHING THAT FITS THE TASTES OF THE NANBAN BARBARIANS... THAT'S HIS REASONING.
IT'S BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOU.

YOU WON'T BE FORGIVEN FOR ANY MISTAKES!
THE REASON YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE TO THE CASTLE WAS ORIGINALLY FOR TODAY.
HIDEYOSHI-SAMA, THERE IS ONE THING I MEANT TO ASK YOU...
SWIP
SWIP
EARLIER, JUST AS WE DISEMBARKED FROM THE SHIP ON WHICH WE'D TRAVELLED, I HAPPENED TO NOTICE MANY BROKEN BUDDHIST IDOLS STREWN ABOUT...
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK ANYTHING.

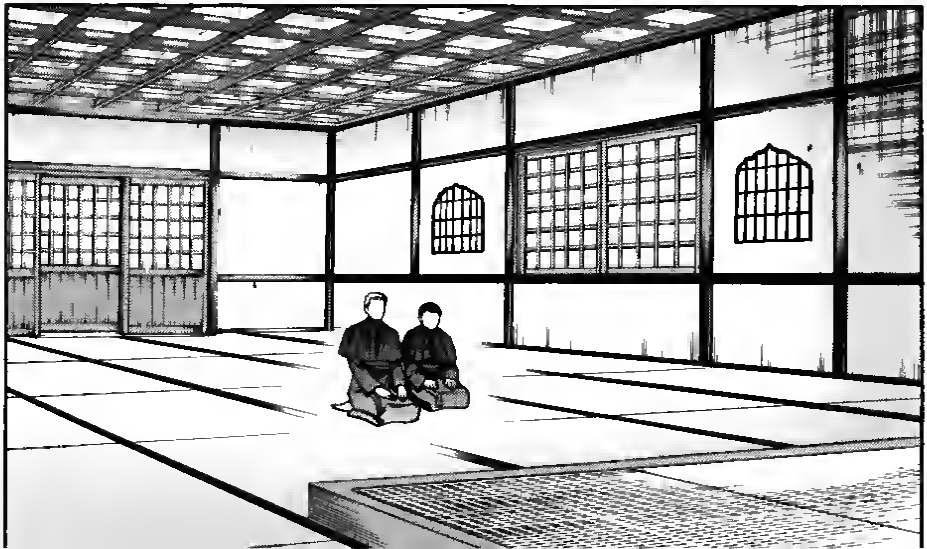
INDEED. THAT WAS ON NOBUNAGA-SAMA'S COMMAND.
YOU SEE, NOBUNAGA-SAMA BELIEVES NEITHER IN GOD, NOR IN THE BUDDHAS.

IN FACT, WHEN BUILDING A CASTLE IN THE CAPITAL, HE ORDERED THAT MANY BUDDHIST STATUES BE DESTROYED AND USED AS BUILDING MATERIALS.
OVENS WERE MADE WITH THE BUDDHAS' HEADS AND CAULDRONS PLACED IN THEM WHERE RICE WAS COOKED.


YES, OF COURSE. I UNDERSTAND WELL.
GRIN


IN SHORT, YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE TO REFRAIN FROM YOUR PREACHING.

*T/N: Mara is a Buddhist demon that tempted the Gautama Buddha. He represents the death of all things spiritual.

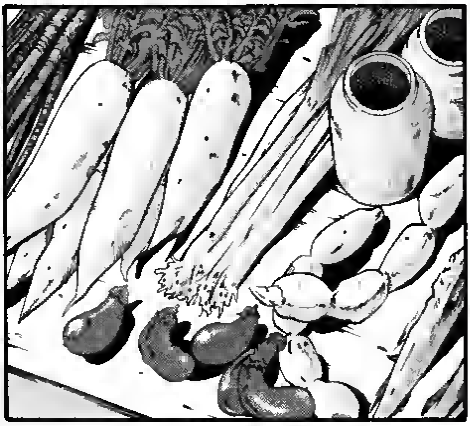


Hmm... I DON'T KNOW...
BUT EITHER WAY, GOD'S PROTECTION BE UPON US.

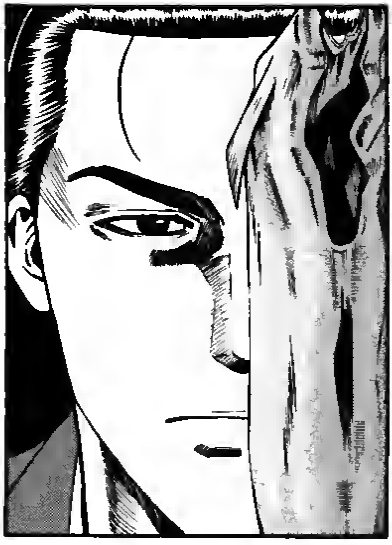
FRÓIS-SAMA... I WONDER IF NOBUNAGA-SAMA INTENDS TO GRANT YOU AN AUDIENCE THIS TIME...

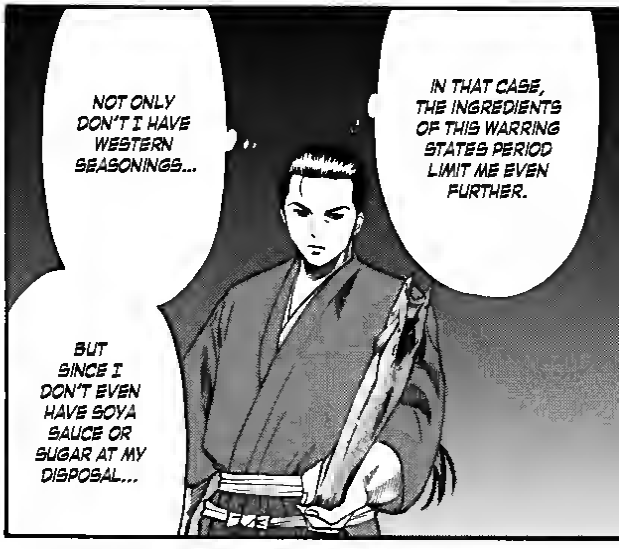
KITCHENS

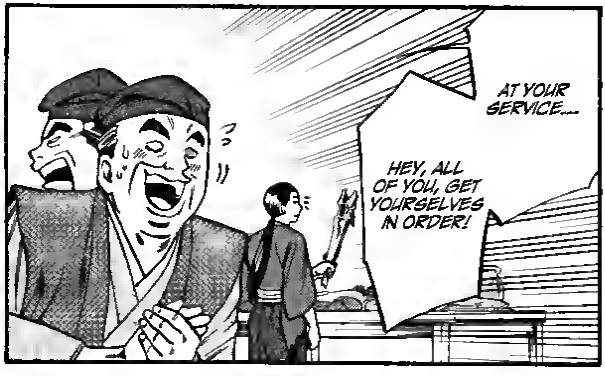
EVEN IF I CLEAN OUT THE MARKETS, THIS IS ALL IT AMOUNTS TO...



I WONDER IF I SPECIALISED IN PREPARING WESTERN DISHES IN THE PAST.
MANY OF THE FOOD MEMORIES THAT COME TO MIND ARE FROM WESTERN CUISINE.
HIDEYOSHI SAID HE THOUGHT MY COOKING TASTED OF NANBAN CUISINE, AND MAYBE THAT'S TRUE...

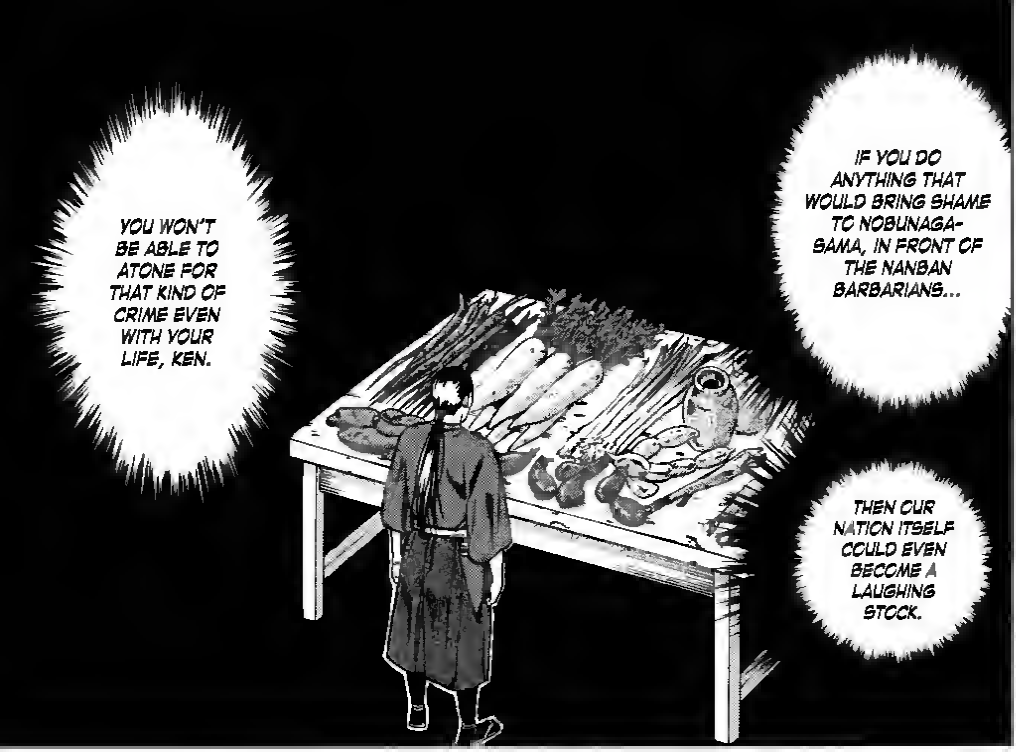


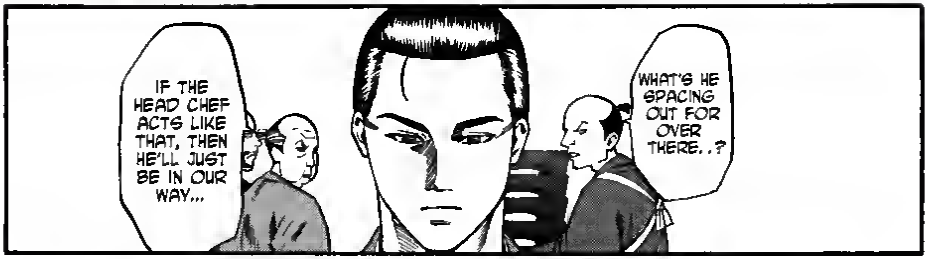

BUT SINCE I DON'T EVEN HAVE SOYA SAUCE OR SUGAR AT MY DISPOSAL...
NOT ONLY DON'T I HAVE WESTERN SEASONINGS...
IN THAT CASE, THE INGREDIENTS OF THIS WARRING STATES PERIOD LIMIT ME EVEN FURTHER.


HEY, ALL OF YOU, GET YOURSELVES IN ORDER!
AT YOUR SERVICE....

OUR GUESTS TODAY ARE FROM NANBAN.
LISTEN WELL, I WANT YOUR COOKING TODAY TO DELIGHT FRÖIS.
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TASK I'M ENTRUSTING TO ALL OF YOU.
UNDER-STOOD?
YOU HAD BETTER MAKE SURE HE'S ABSOLUTELY *OVERJOYED.*

KEN..
YES, SIR!
SO YOU WOULD DO WELL TO UNDERSTAND THAT FULLY.
THIS IS YOUR BATTLE.
THUD
RIGHT NOW, SINCE NOBUNAGA-SAMA CONQUERED KYOTO, HE IS THE PRE-EMINENT DAIMYO IN THE NATION.
WHO EVEN UNDERSTAND THE INTRICACIES OF CARAVELS AND CANNONS.
THESE NANBAN ARE MEN WITH A DEVELOPED CULTURE....


YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ATONE FOR THAT KIND OF CRIME EVEN WITH YOUR LIFE, KEN.
IF YOU DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD BRING SHAME TO NOBUNAGA-SAMA, IN FRONT OF THE NANBAN BARBARIANS...
THEN OUR NATION ITSELF COULD EVEN BECOME A LAUGHING STOCK.

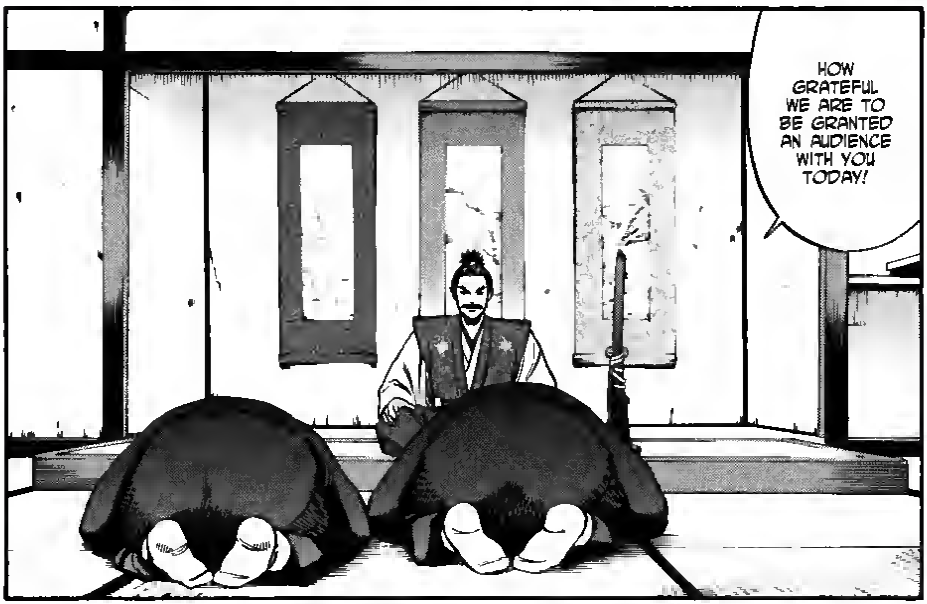

IF THE HEAD CHEF ACTS LIKE THAT, THEN HE'LL JUST BE IN OUR WAY...
WHAT'S HE SPACING OUT FOR OVER THERE..?

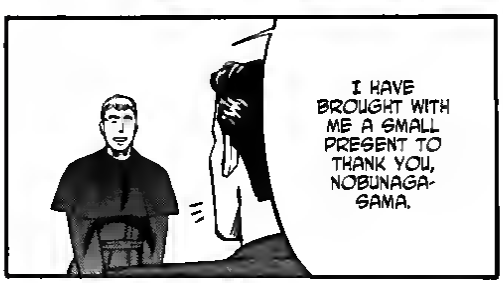
HE'LL DESTROY HIMSELF IN HIS OWN TIME.
JUST BE PATIENT. THERE'S NO MAN ALIVE WHO CAN KEEP UP WITH NOBUNAGA-SAMA'S IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS.

LET IT GO.
BOSS, IF WE JUST STABBED HIM WHILE HE ISN'T LOOKING AT US, THEN...

MAKE FOOD THAT WILL MAKE THE NANBAN BARBARIANS OVERJOYED?
PHEW--I'M GODDAMN LUCKY I'M NOT IN HIS SHOES!
HE HE HE HE
SO WHY NOW? IS IT REALLY BECAUSE HE WANTED MY WESTERN INFLUENCED CUISINE...? I'M SURE THAT'S PART OF IT... BUT IS THERE NOTHING ELSE?!
IF ALL HE WANTED TO DO WAS IMPRESS THEM WITH DELICIOUS AND ELEGANT FOOD, THEN IT WOULD HAVE MADE MORE SENSE TO HOLD THIS AUDIENCE IN KYOTO, WHERE THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF GOOD INGREDIENTS.
STRANGE...
THIS
S YOUR
BATTLE.
WHAT IS IT THAT NOBUNAGA WANTS TO GET FROM THIS BANQUET?!
WHAT'S THE ANSWER THAT NOBUNAGA'S LOOKING FOR...?!

WE CANNOT EXPRESS IN WORDS...


HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE TO BE GRANTED AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU TODAY!

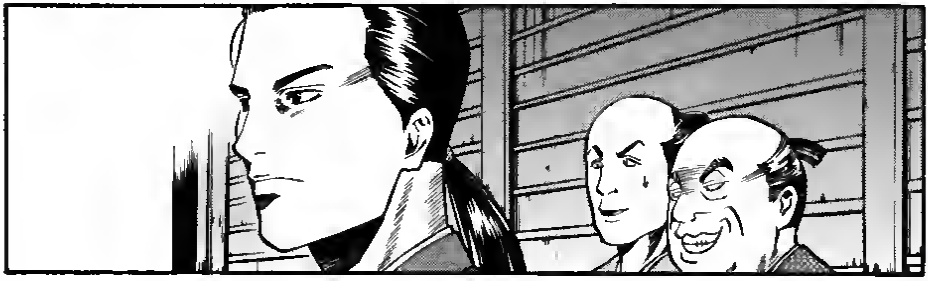

I HAVE BROUGHT WITH ME A SMALL PRESENT TO THANK YOU, NOBUNAGA-SAMA.

PLEASE RISE.

THIS IS CALLED CONFEITO.
HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS?
PREVIOUSLY, WE PRESENTED A GUN, A PEACOCK'S TAIL FEATHER, A VELVET HAT, AND A RATTAN CANE. BUT ONLY THE HAT WAS ACCEPTED.
IT'S A TYPE OF CANDY.
CONFEITO, YOU SAY?
Mmh!
PHEW

KEN! BRING OUT THE FOOD!
NOW THEN, IT IS MY TURN TO PRESENT.
'TIS BUT A SIMPLE THING, BUT PLEASE HELP YOURSELVES.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO RAISE YOUR BOWLS SO AS NOT TO SPILL ANY BROTH.

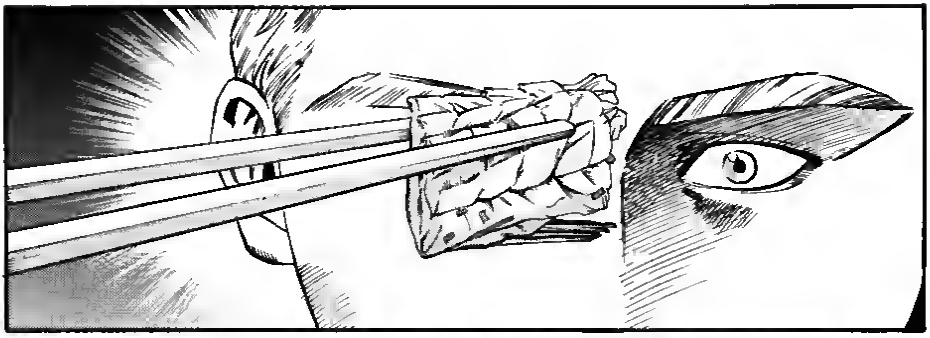
CLACK

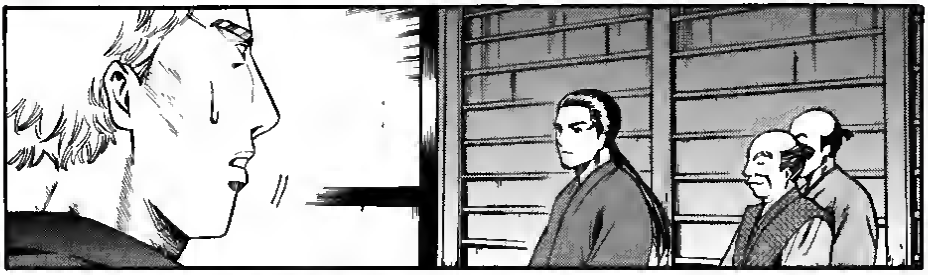


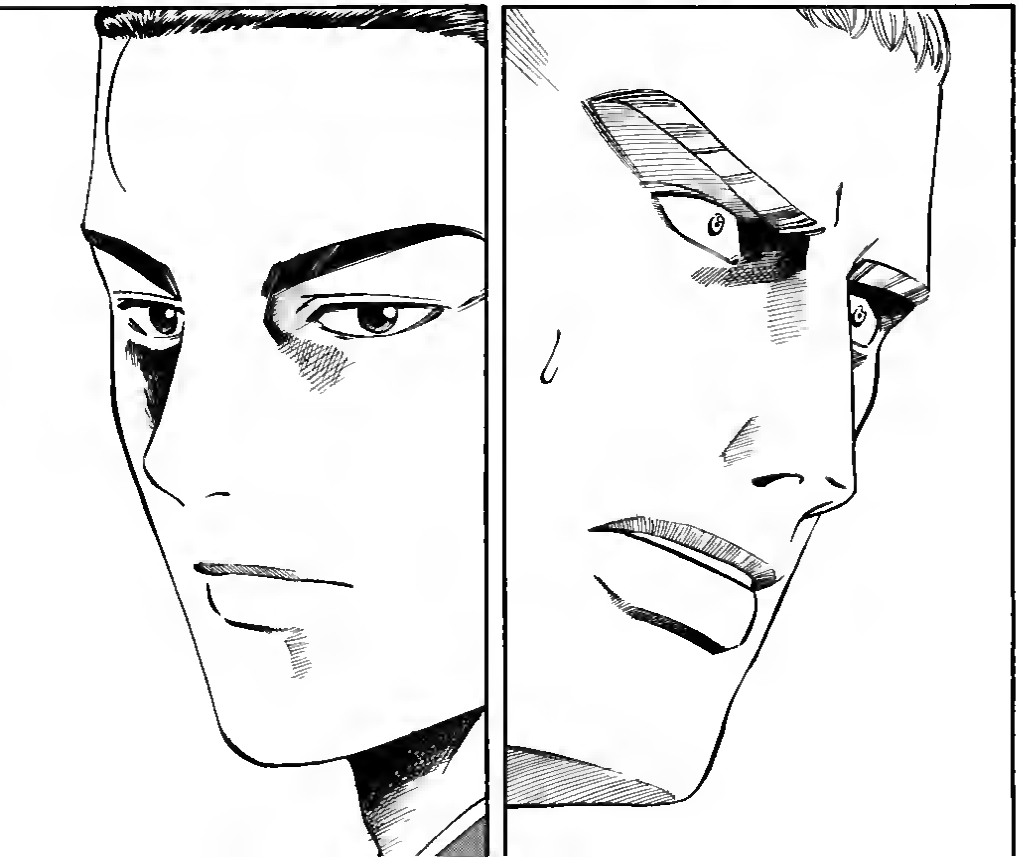
A POTAGE SOUP MADE WITH DRIED COD, DAIKON LEAVES, AND LOTUS ROOT.

GLARE
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS...?!
WHAT IS WITH THIS ORDINARY LOOKING SOUP...?

JUST LOOK! SERVES YOU RIGHT FOR PRESENTING SUCH A WEIRD SOUP!
HE HE HE
CALDO... VERDE...
KARU?
KA...
IT'S PRONOUNCED CALDO VERDE...
IT'S A TYPE OF GREEN SOUP EATEN IN PORTUGAL...







THEN THIS SHOULD BE FINE.
IF NOBUNAGA'S AGENDA IS REALLY WHAT I BELIEVE IT IS...
BACA...
LHA... U...
GASP...

SCS

PRESENTS

NOBUNAGA NO CHEF

CREDITS

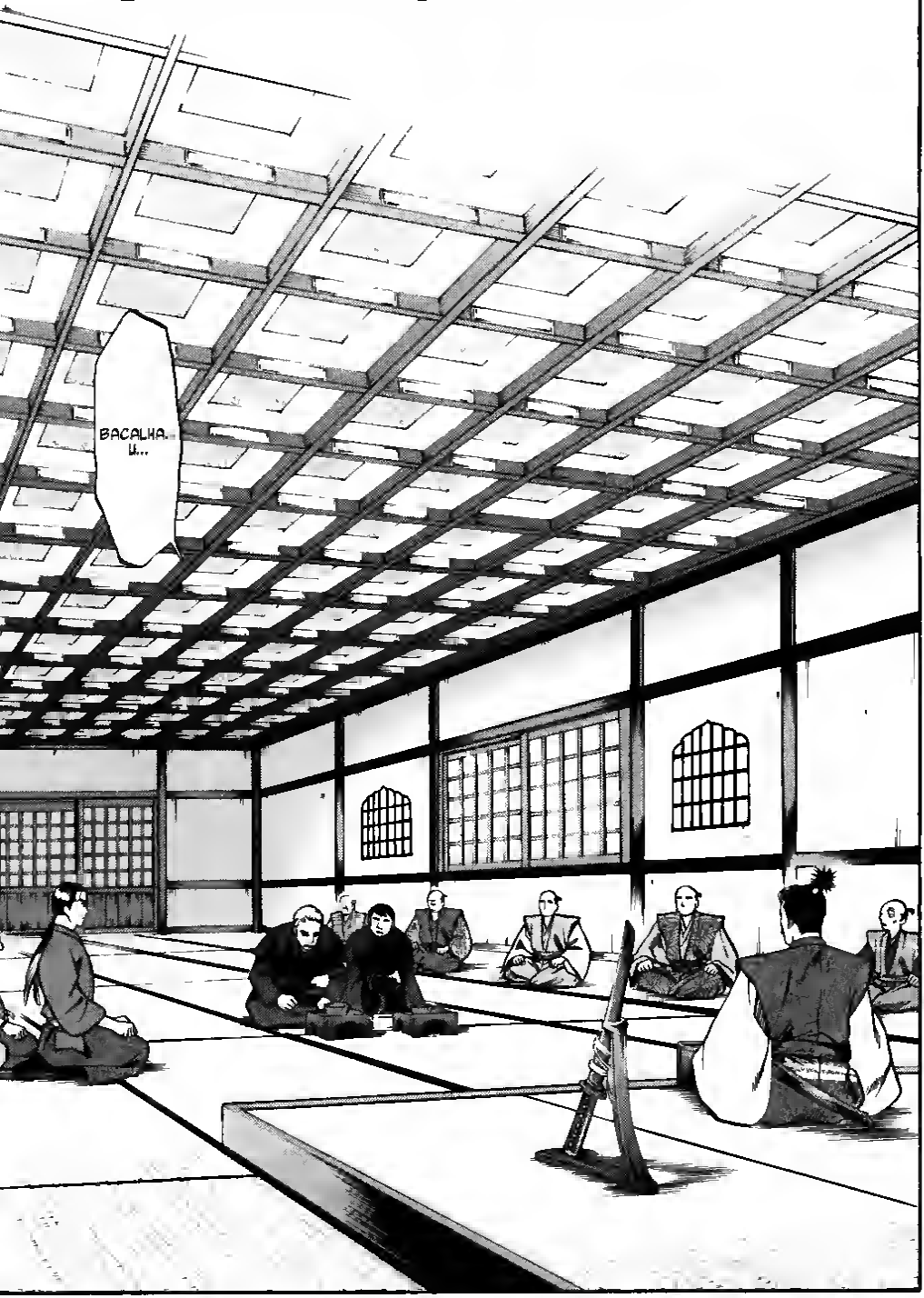
TRANSLATOR: TALLRICE

PROOFREADER: FALLACY

EDITOR: FALLACY

QC: PIMELEA

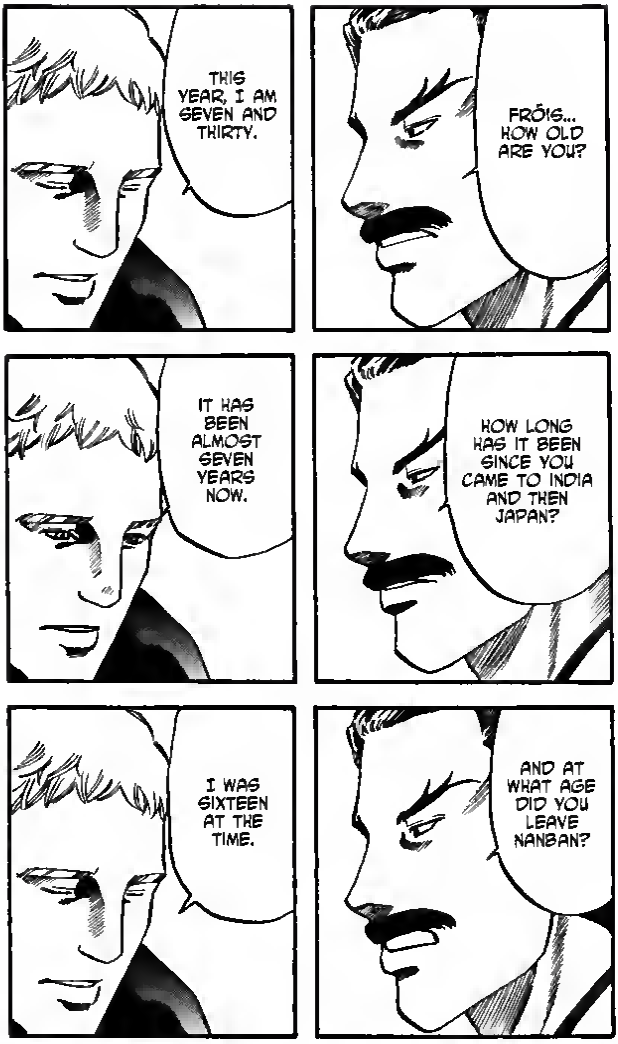
Chapter 3 Nobunaga's Intentions



SHOCK
BAKA...?!
FRÓIS-DONO! HOW DARE YOU CALL OUR LORD A BAKA...!

Ugh...
Sniffle
A WARMTH... FLOWS THROUGH MY HEART.

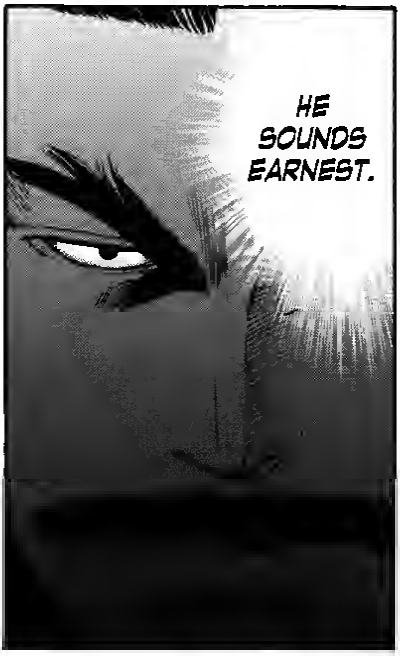
THIS IS A FORM OF DRIED AND SALTED COD MADE IN NANBAN.
BACALHAU...
I MADE USE OF JAPANESE DRIED COD, WHICH IS SIMILAR.
HOW CAN THIS BE?! JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS SOUP...?
THE FLAVOR OF HOME, IS IT?
HOMELAND...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I AM OVERWHELMED WITH MEMORIES OF MY HOME-LAND...


THIS YEAR, I AM SEVEN AND THIRTY.
FRÓIS... HOW OLD ARE YOU?
IT HAS BEEN ALMOST SEVEN YEARS NOW.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU CAME TO INDIA AND THEN JAPAN?
I WAS SIXTEEN AT THE TIME.
AND AT WHAT AGE DID YOU LEAVE NANBAN?

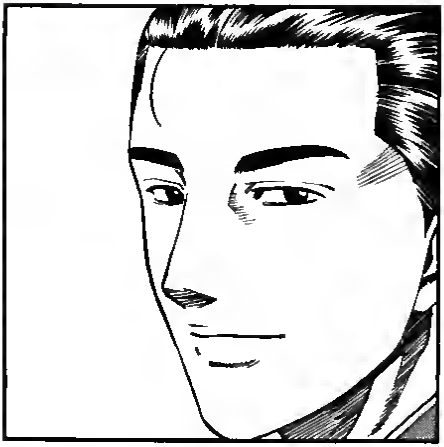
EVEN THOUGH OUR APPEARANCE MIGHT BE DIFFERENT, PERHAPS OUR HEARTS ARE IN THE SAME PLACE.

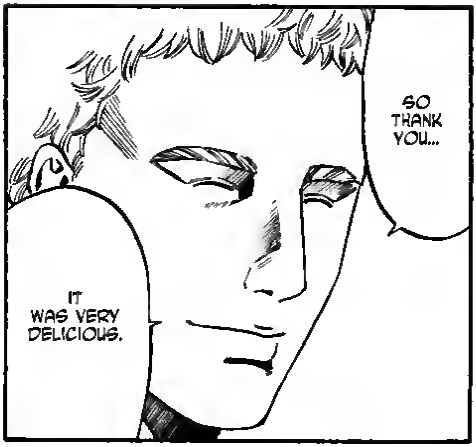
I WAS SENT HERE BY THE WILL OF OUR LORD GOD, TO TEACH THE PATH OF REDEMPTION TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN.
I JOURNEYED LONG AT SEA, BRAVING MANY DANGERS TO ACHIEVE MY GOAL.
UNTEMPTED BY MUNDANE PROFIT...
...AND PREPARED TO FACE ANY TRIBULATION...
...EVEN AFTER SO LONG, MY HEART FALTERS AS SO MANY MEMORIES OF MY HOMELAND ARE REKINDLED.
BUT...

I'M REMINDED OF MY MOTHER'S FAREWELL ON THE DAY OF MY DEPARTURE.
EATING THE FOOD YOU PREPARED...
"WHATEVER MISFORTUNE MIGHT BEFALL YOU, NEVER GIVE UP!"
"...THAT WILL BECOME YOUR NEW HOMELAND."
"WHEREVER YOU MAY BE..."
"MAKE SURE TO WORK HARD FOR YOUR NEW BRETHREN," SHE SAID...


HE SOUNDS EARNEST.

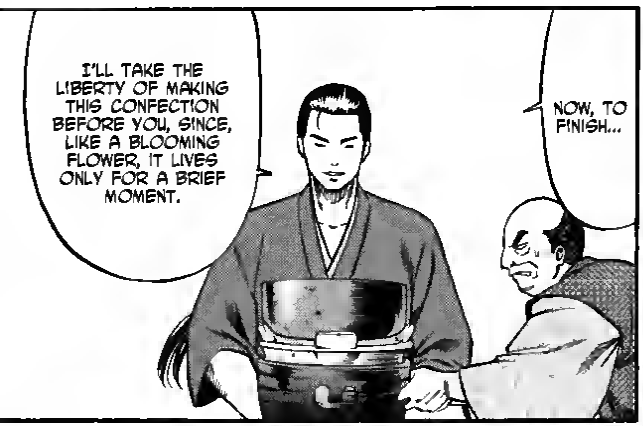
I INTEND TO LIVE BY THOSE WORDS.

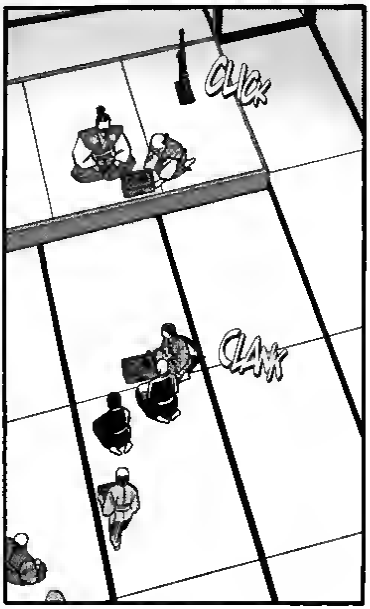



SO THANK YOU...
IT WAS VERY DELICIOUS.

IF I MAY INTERRUPT. I HAVE A RECOMMENDATION.
I'D LIKE TO MAKE ONE MORE DISH FROM THE CONFEITO PRESENTED TODAY BY FRÓIS-SAN...
...AS PROOF OF THE NEW FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN YOU TWO, I'LL MAKE THE CONFEITO BLOOM.

BLOOM, YOU SAY...?
GO AHEAD.

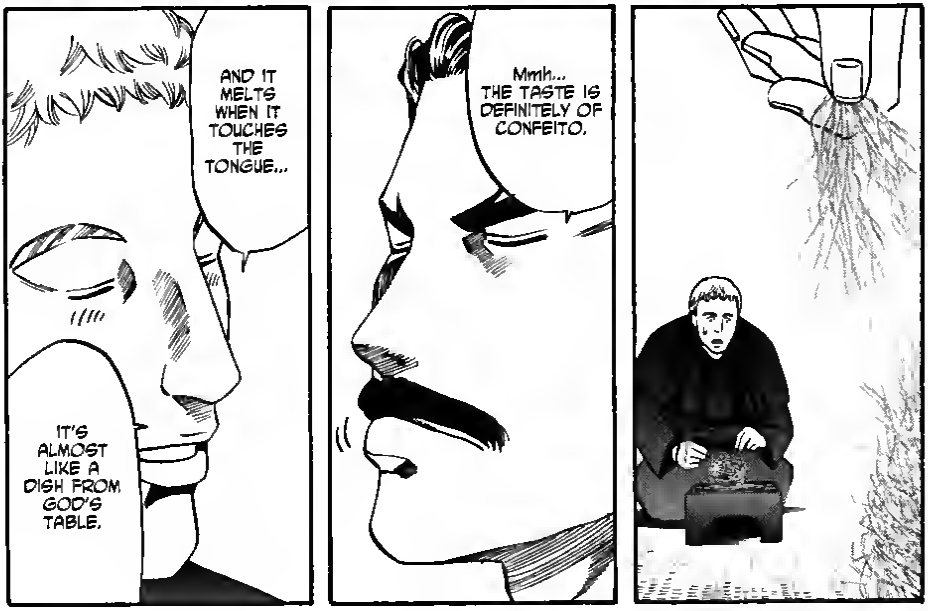

NOW, TO FINISH...
I'LL TAKE THE LIBERTY OF MAKING THIS CONFECTION BEFORE YOU, SINCE, LIKE A BLOOMING FLOWER, IT LIVES ONLY FOR A BRIEF MOMENT.

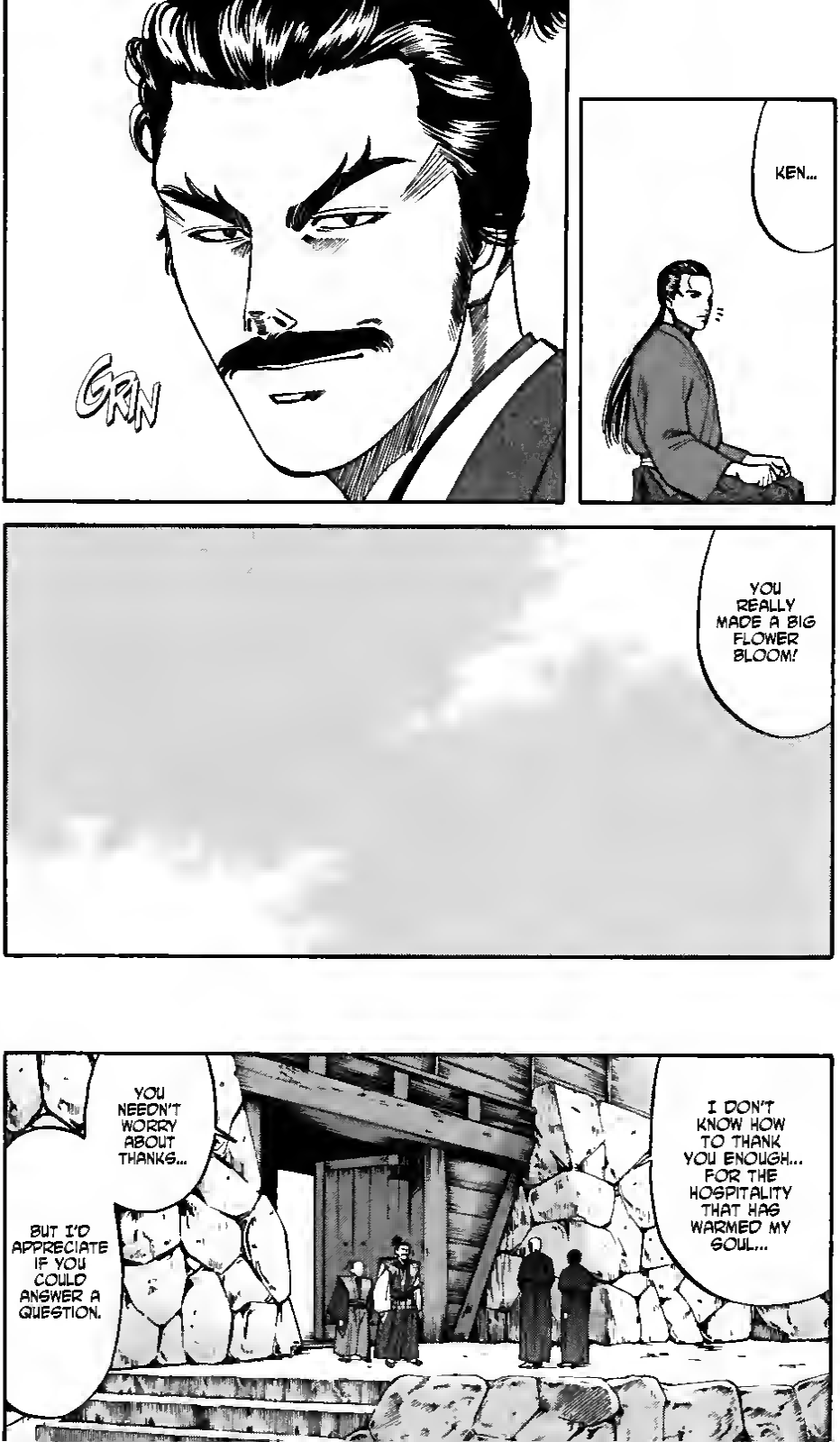

CLICK
CLANK

T/N: Ken is intently watching the water boil to catch the sugar at its 'Thread Stage'. Occurring between 101.112° C, this is the second of the nine sugar syrup temperature stages. If Ken waits any longer, the sugar will proceed on to the 'Soft-Ball Stage' and will no longer come out as threads.!!!

IN-INCREDIBLE! IS THIS MAGIC?!
HOW COULD THE SMALL CONFEITO TRANSFORM INTO THESE STRINGS...?

A FLORAL CONFEITO OF FRIENDSHIP.


AND IT MELTS WHEN IT TOUCHES THE TONGUE...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A DISH FROM GOD'S TABLE.
Mmh... THE TASTE IS DEFINITELY OF CONFEITO.


GRIN
KEN...
YOU REALLY MADE A BIG FLOWER BLOOM!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU ENOUGH... FOR THE HOSPITALITY THAT HAS WARMED MY SOUL...
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THANKS...
BUT I'D APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD ANSWER A QUESTION.

IF THERE IS EVEN ONE BELIEVER IN THIS COUNTRY, THEN FOR THEIR SAKE, I WOULD LIVE OUT THE REST OF MY DAYS HERE.
WILL YOU RETURN TO INDIA?
IF THE TEACHINGS OF YOUR GOD DON'T TAKE HOLD IN MY NATION...
SORRY, SIR?!
SARU DID YOU HEAR THAT?
*Padre: Christian priests
I GREATLY ADMIRE THE COURAGE AND SPIRIT WITH WHICH...
...THESE MEN HAVE TRAVELLED HERE FROM DISTANT LANDS IN ORDER TO TEACH THEIR SCRIPTURES
THOSE DAMNED MONKS IN THE CAPITAL SPREAD EVIL RUMORS THAT THE PADRES* ARE CANNIBALS AND WORSE...
BUT THEY ARE FOOLS FOR SAYING THE PADRES' TEACHINGS WILL DESTROY THE COUNTRY.

GULP
IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT MY OFFER, I WILL BE GREATLY OFFENDED.
PLEASE, MY LORD, WE WILL BE FINE ON FOOT...
SARU! BRING OUR GUESTS SOME HORSES!
RIGHT AWAY, SIR!
BUT IT SEEMS THE RUMORS OF THE COMMON FOLK WERE UNFOUNDED.
I HAD HEARD HE WAS A CRUEL AND UNSCRUPULOUS TYRANT...
HE WAS AN UNEXPECTEDLY KIND-HEARTED LORD.
CLOP
CLOP

BUT I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE EVER SEEN A CHEF WITH THAT LEVEL OF SKILL AND CREATIVITY BEFORE.
THE SEASONING TECHNIQUES HE USED ARE MORE WESTERN IN STYLE.
BUT WHAT CONCERNS ME MORE, HOWEVER, IS THAT CHEF CALLED KEN.
I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE HE IS REALLY JAPANESE.
KEN... DO YOU KNOW WHY I ASKED YOU TO PLEASE FROIS?
ISN'T IT... BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO SEE HIS TRUE NATURE... AND HIS INTENTIONS?
MEN ONLY SHOW THEIR TRUE NATURE WHEN THEIR EMOTIONS ARE EXPRESSED.

I HEARD PEOPLE TALKING IN THE STREETS AND MARKET, SAYING THAT HE'D COME, NOT TO SPREAD RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS, BUT TO CAPTURE THE COUNTRY.
I UNDERSTOOD THAT MY ASSIGNMENT WAS TO DRAW OUT HIS INTENTIONS, TO FIND OUT WHETHER THOSE RUMORS WERE TRUE OR NOT.
INSTEAD OF PLEASING HIM...YOU MADE HIM GRIEVE.
WELL THEN, BY NOW, THOSE TEMPLE MONK SPIES MUST BE OBSERVING FRÓIS.
HE HE HE
I HOPE THEY REALIZE THEIR WORST FEARS CAME TO PASS WHEN THEY SEE THE PADRES DESCENDING ON HORSEBACK, TREATED SO MUCH BETTER THAN THEMSELVES.
THAT'S BECAUSE GRIEF IS THE BEST AT REVEALING A MAN'S NATURE.
KEN... TO THINK HE COULD SEE SO FAR AHEAD!

SHIVER
I HAVE TO ELIMINATE THEM SOON...
THOSE ROTTEN, FAT MONKS...
I BET THAT GIRL OF YOURS WOULD BE DELIGHTED.
YOUR REWARD.
PING
KEN, WHAT IS THIS?!
DELICIOUS!

IF YOU DO WELL ON YOUR NEXT TASK...
...THEN I WILL ALLOW YOU TO MEET WITH THE BLACKSMITH.
NEXT TASK? BUT I HEARD THAT I WAS BEING DISMISSED FROM MY POST AFTER TODAY...
WHO TOLD YOU SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
SARU, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
Huh...?
WAR.
PREPARE THE RANKS.
KEN TOO.

SCS

PRESENTS

NOBUNAGA NO CHEF

CREDITS

TRANSLATOR: TALLRICE

PROOFREADER: FALLACY

EDITOR: FALLACY

QC: PIMELEA

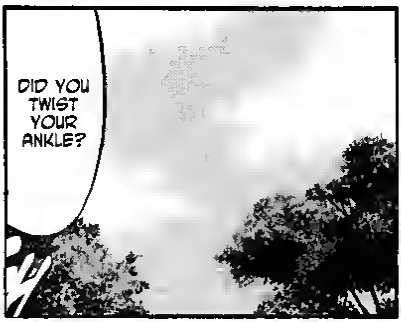
Chapter 4 Fifth Birthday

YAAH!
RUAAH!
AUGUST, MOUNT KINKA IN GIFU
HIYAH!
KLUP
YAAAAH!
BWOO

RUSTLE
OWOW-OW...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
DON'T EAT ME!
UWAAA-AAAH!
SOMETHING BIG...
A BEAR?!

A...
PERSON ...?

WOAH!
WOO-


DID YOU TWIST YOUR ANKLE?

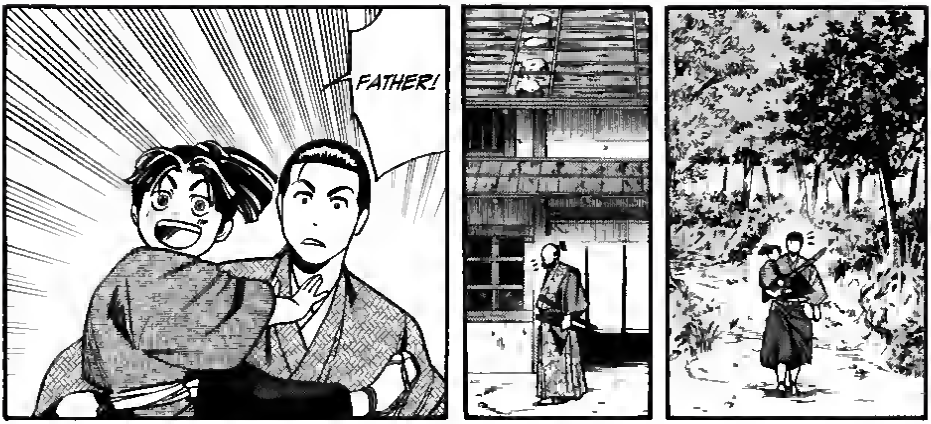
UN- UNHAND ME, YOU KNAVE!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

ARE YOU A KID FROM FUMOTO CITY?
YOU CLAIM NOT TO KNOW WHO I AM...?
I KNOW YOU MUST BE A SPY!
STOP IT! I CAN WALK WITH MY OWN TWO FEET!
WAVE
WAVE
...
TRUDGE TRUDGE
YOU'RE WRONG. I'M JUST A CHEF FROM THE CASTLE.
I WAS LOOKING FOR THESE.
THIS IS A PEARL AMONG PEARLS.
WHA- WHAT IS THAT...?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EAT THAT, ARE YOU?!

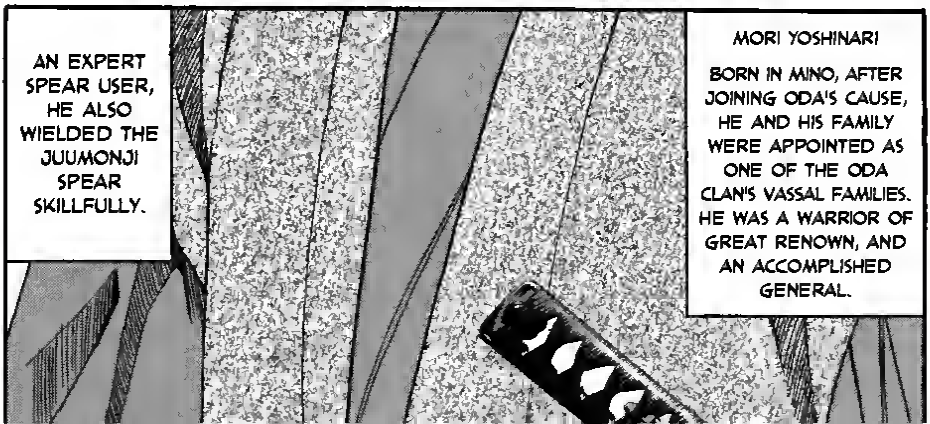
SO, YOU OFTEN PLAY WITH TOY SPEARS?
I WASN'T PLAYING! I WAS TRAINING!
YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF MORI RANMARU!
SON OF MORI YOSHINARI, "SANZAE OF THE ATTACK"-*
YOU KNAVE!
THWACK

*T/N Sanzaemon was another name Mori Yoshinari went by. Both Yoshinari and Ranmaru were loyal vassals and close friends of Oda Nobunaga. There is even speculation that Oda and Ranmaru might have been romantically involved.

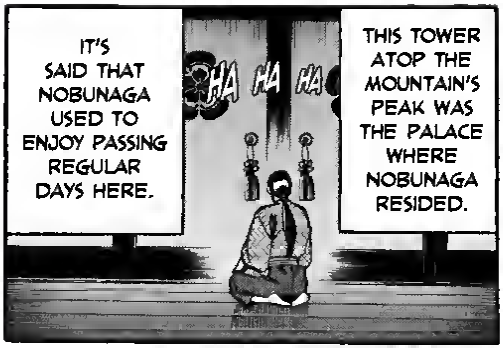
HE'S *THAT* MORI RANMARU...!
THIS BOY IS SAID TO HAVE FOLLOWED ODA NOBUNAGA FAITHFULLY, UNTIL HE DIED DURING THE HONNOUJI INCIDENT.


FATHER!

RAN-MARU.


AN EXPERT SPEAR USER, HE ALSO WIELDED THE JUUMONJI SPEAR SKILLFULLY.
MORI YOSHINARI
BORN IN MINO, AFTER JOINING ODA'S CAUSE, HE AND HIS FAMILY WERE APPOINTED AS ONE OF THE ODA CLAN'S VASSAL FAMILIES. HE WAS A WARRIOR OF GREAT RENOWN, AND AN ACCOMPLISHED GENERAL.

IT WAS NOTHING.
WE HAVE TROUBLED YOU...
MY APOLOGIES AND THANKS.
I SEE, HIS FOOT...
PLEASE EXCUSE US THEN.
OFF WE GO, RANMARU.
YES!
FOR AN ARMY GENERAL, HE HAS QUITE A HUMBLE PERSONALITY.
I WONDER WHO I WAS AND WHO TOOK CARE OF ME WHEN I WAS RANMARU'S AGE.
He's still suspicious of me...


IT'S SAID THAT NOBUNAGA USED TO ENJOY PASSING REGULAR DAYS HERE.
HA HA HA
THIS TOWER ATOP THE MOUNTAIN'S PEAK WAS THE PALACE WHERE NOBUNAGA RESIDED.

HA HA HA

GIFU CASTLE – FUMOTO TOWER

YOSHINARI, LET ME POUR YOU A DRINK.
TODAY, WE HAVE THE PLEASURE OF CELEBRATING RANMARU'S 5TH BIRTHDAY.
YES, SIR! YOU HONOR ME GREATLY!
TO HOLD FESTIVITIES SO SOON BEFORE WE GO TO WAR...
NOBUNAGA-SAMA REALLY FAVORS MORI-DONO, DOESN'T HE?

OH YES!
RANMARU, YOU WANT A CUP AS WELL?
Mmh!
IT IS MOST DELICIOUS!
THEN, PLEASE MAKE USE OF MY SAKE CUP.
TOO!
M-MY LORD...
IT WAS VERY DELICIOUS!

BRING OUT OUR MEAL!
NOW, LET'S SERVE A FEAST!
HAHAHA!
ATTA-BOY!
IT'S THE MAN FROM BEFORE.
SO HE REALLY WAS A CHEF.
AND NOT JUST ANY CHEF, HE MAKES NOBUNAGA-SAMA'S MEALS...

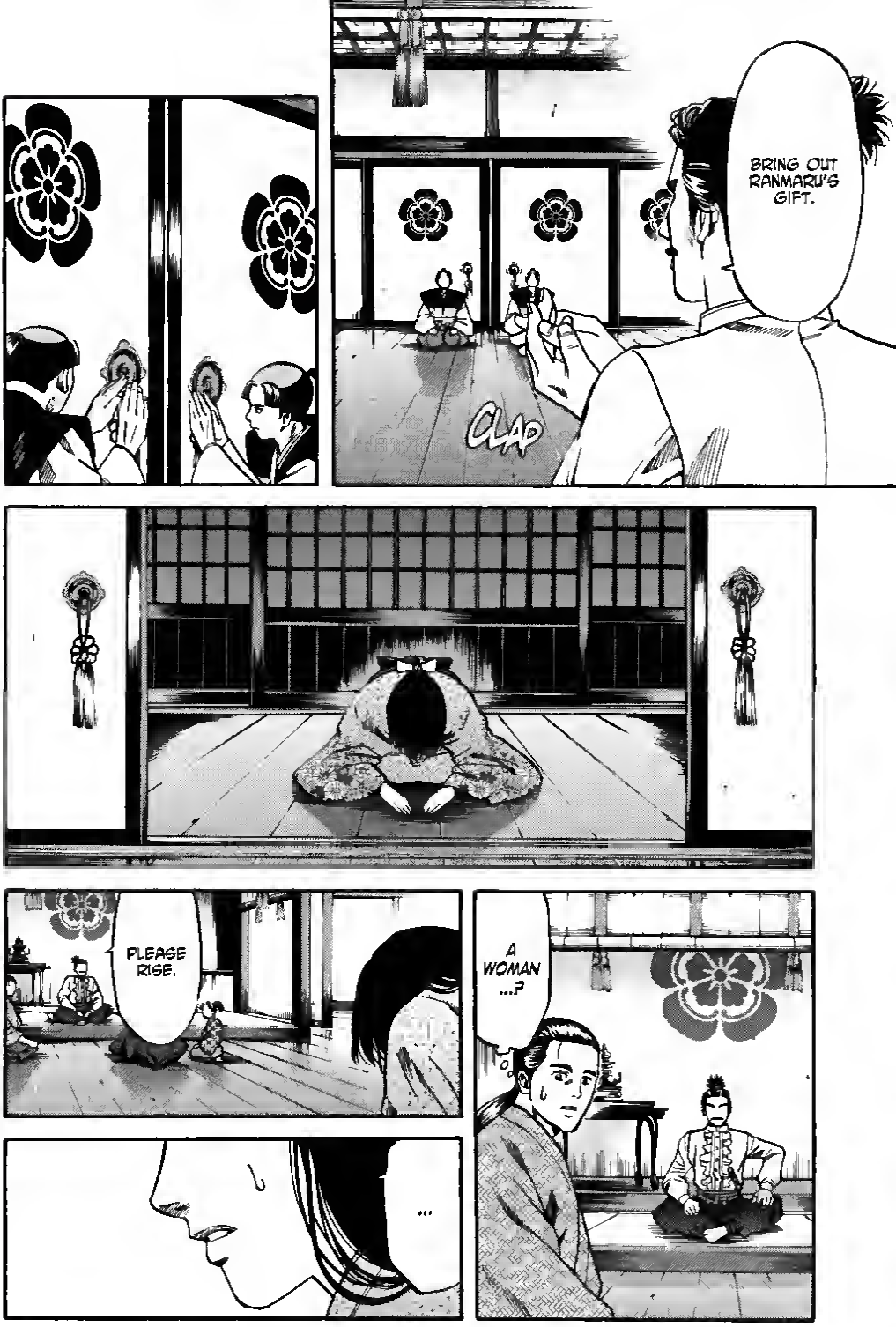
THIS IS....
THIS....
WOW....
SUCH A RICH AND FULL OF FRAGRANCE!

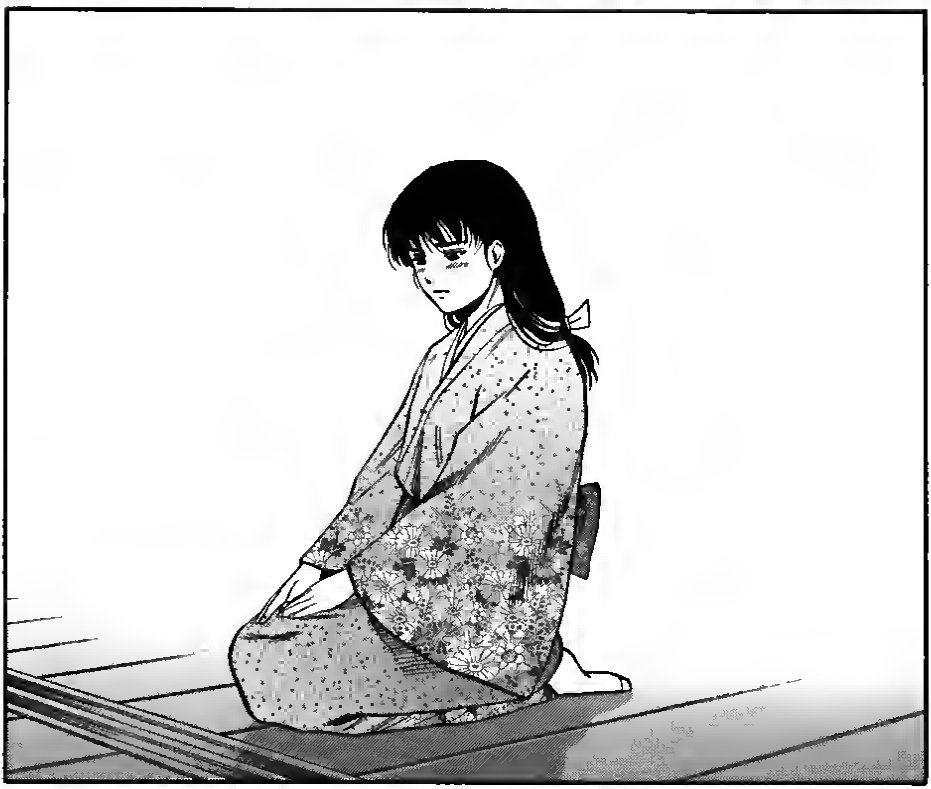
SO IT'S THIS BLACK THING THAT'S THE SOURCE OF THE FRAGRANCE, IS IT?
Hmm!
SHOURO?
I'VE GOT ONE HERE.
THIS IS SOUP OF CHICKEN STUFFED WITH SHOURO.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IN THE NANBAN LANDS, THEY'RE CALLED 'TRUFFLES' AND ARE PRIZED AS DELICACIES.
THEY'RE A KIND OF WILD MUSHROOM THAT GROW NEAR PINE TREES.
THEY'RE ALSO SAID TO HAVE APHRODISIAC PROPERTIES.

*T/N: Literally translated as pine dew drops.

I WONDER HOW HE COULD FIND IT IN SUCH A LARGE AREA.
HE SAYS HE FOUND IT ON MOUNT KINKA?
NO WONDER I THOUGHT THERE WAS A MYSTERIOUS FRAGRANCE.
THIS KEN MUST BE A REALLY AMAZING CHEF!
HE CAN EVEN MAKE SUCH DELICIOUS THINGS.
SO GOOD...
HE'S IN A WHOLE OTHER LEAGUE FROM YOUR AVERAGE CHEF!
KEN'S A CHEF OUR LORD FOUND...
THIS SEA BREAM GRILLED WITH DUCK LIVER IS ALSO AMAZING.

I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR GIVING ME, RANMARU, THIS SEAT OF HONOR TONIGHT!
YES! IT WAS REALLY DELICIOUS, MY LORD!
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK, RANMARU?
RANMARU, YOU ARE ALREADY A FINE, UPSTANDING MAN.
...?


BRING OUT RANMARU'S GIFT.
CLAP
PLEASE RISE.
...
A WOMAN ...?



NA...
NATSU!?!
...
...KEN...

SCS

PRESENTS

NOBUNAGA NO CHEF

CREDITS

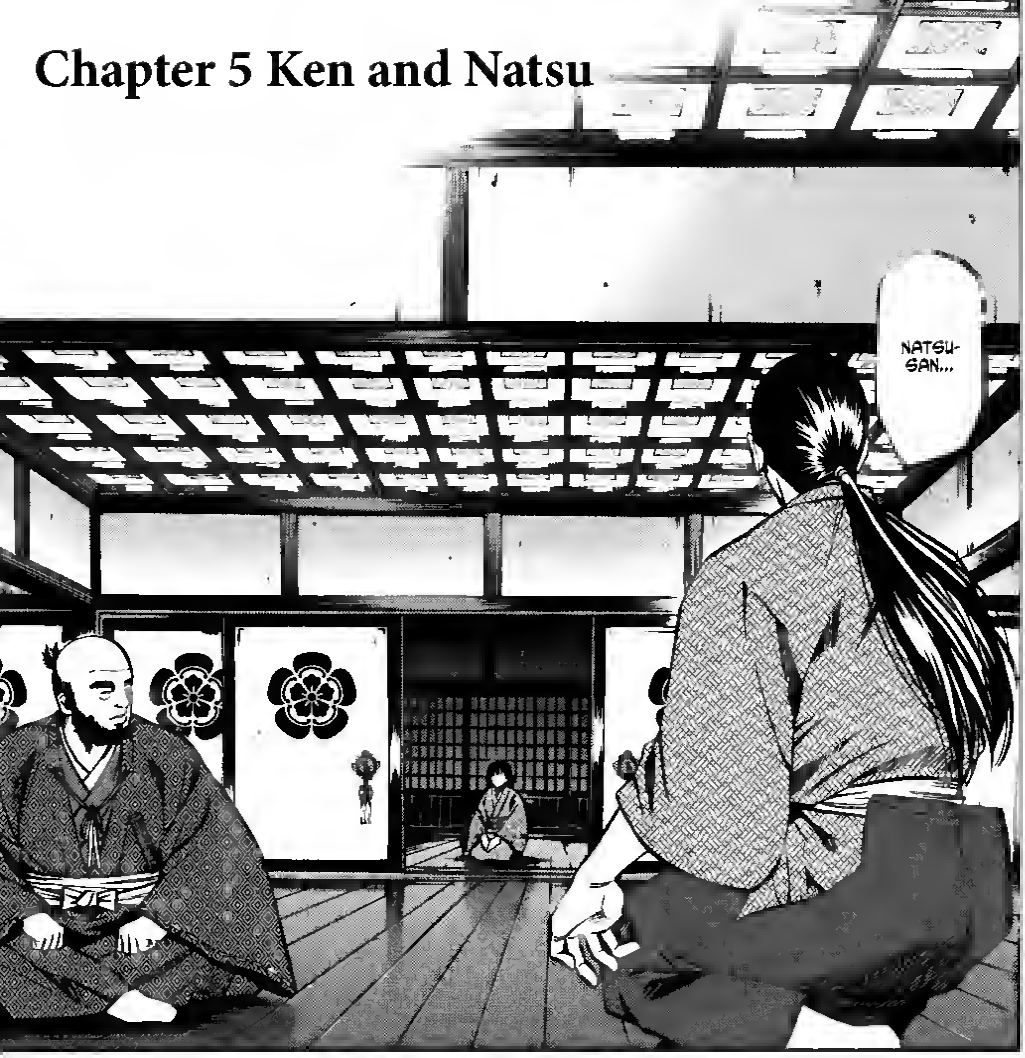
TRANSLATOR: TALLRICE

PROOFREADER: FALLACY

EDITOR: FALLACY

QC: PIMELEA

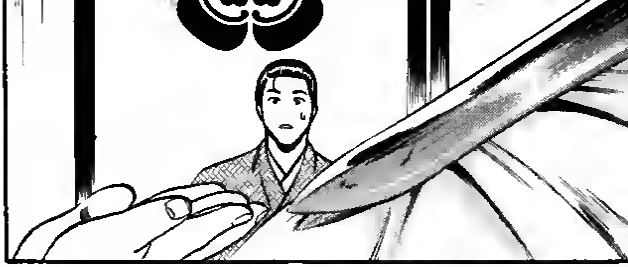
Chapter 5 Ken and Natsu



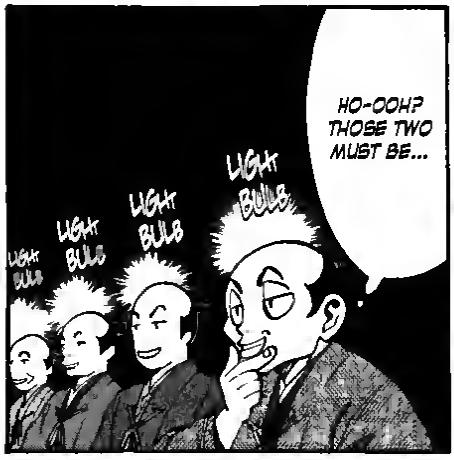
THAT'S THE GIRL FROM THE SMITHY WHERE KEN WAS STAYING...
IS HE PLANNING TO HAND THAT GIRL OVER TO RANMARU...?
YOUR NAME IS NATSU, RIGHT?
YOU MAY APPROACH.
DID YOU COMPLETE IT?
YES, MY LORD!
PLEASE LET ME PRESENT IT TO YOU, NOBUNAGA-SAMA!

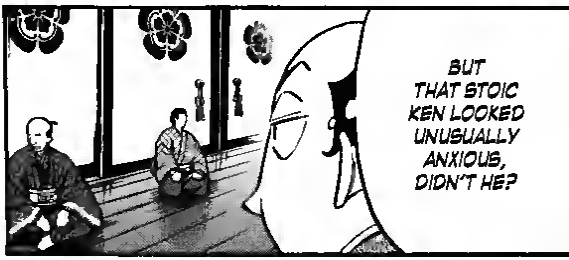
Hmm...
GOOD CRAFTS-MANSHIP
YOSHI-NARI...
I PRESENT THIS SPEARHEAD TO RANMARU AS A GIFT...
...WITH THE HOPES THAT HE WILL GROW UP TO BECOME AS SKILLED A SPEAR USER AS YOU.
THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!

HUH? BORING! SO HE WAS JUST PRESENTING THE JUUMONJI SPEARHEAD AS A GIFT THEN.



PHEW

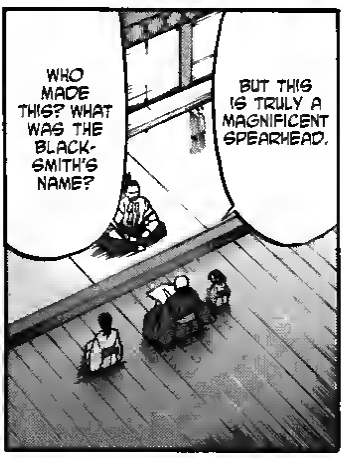

HO-OOH? THOSE TWO MUST BE...
LIGHT BULB
LIGHT BULB
LIGHT BULB
LIGHT BULB


BUT THAT STOIC KEN LOOKED UNUSUALLY ANXIOUS, DIDN'T HE?

GLANCE
GLANCE

YOU DID...?! SURELY NOT...

WHAT?!
IT WAS I...

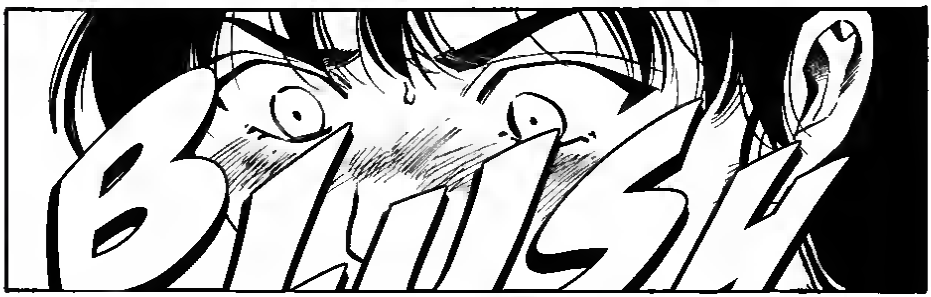

WHO MADE THIS? WHAT WAS THE BLACK-SMITH'S NAME?
BUT THIS IS TRULY A MAGNIFICENT SPEARHEAD.

?
I SEE NOW... PLEASE EXCUSE MY OUTBURST.
WAIT...?
Y-YES, MY LORD.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
EXPLAIN YOURSELF, YOSHINARI.
AH...
AND BECAUSE OF THE GODDESS KANAYAKO'S JEALOUSY, THE SMITHY WAS ALWAYS A PLACE WHERE WOMEN COULD NOT ENTER..
THE KAMI OF THE SMITHS IS KANAYAKO, A GODDESS SAID TO HAVE BEEN BORNE BY A WHITE FOX.
UNLESS THEY WERE STILL VIRGINS...
THAT IS . HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...?

SHOCK

SHOCK
SHOCK

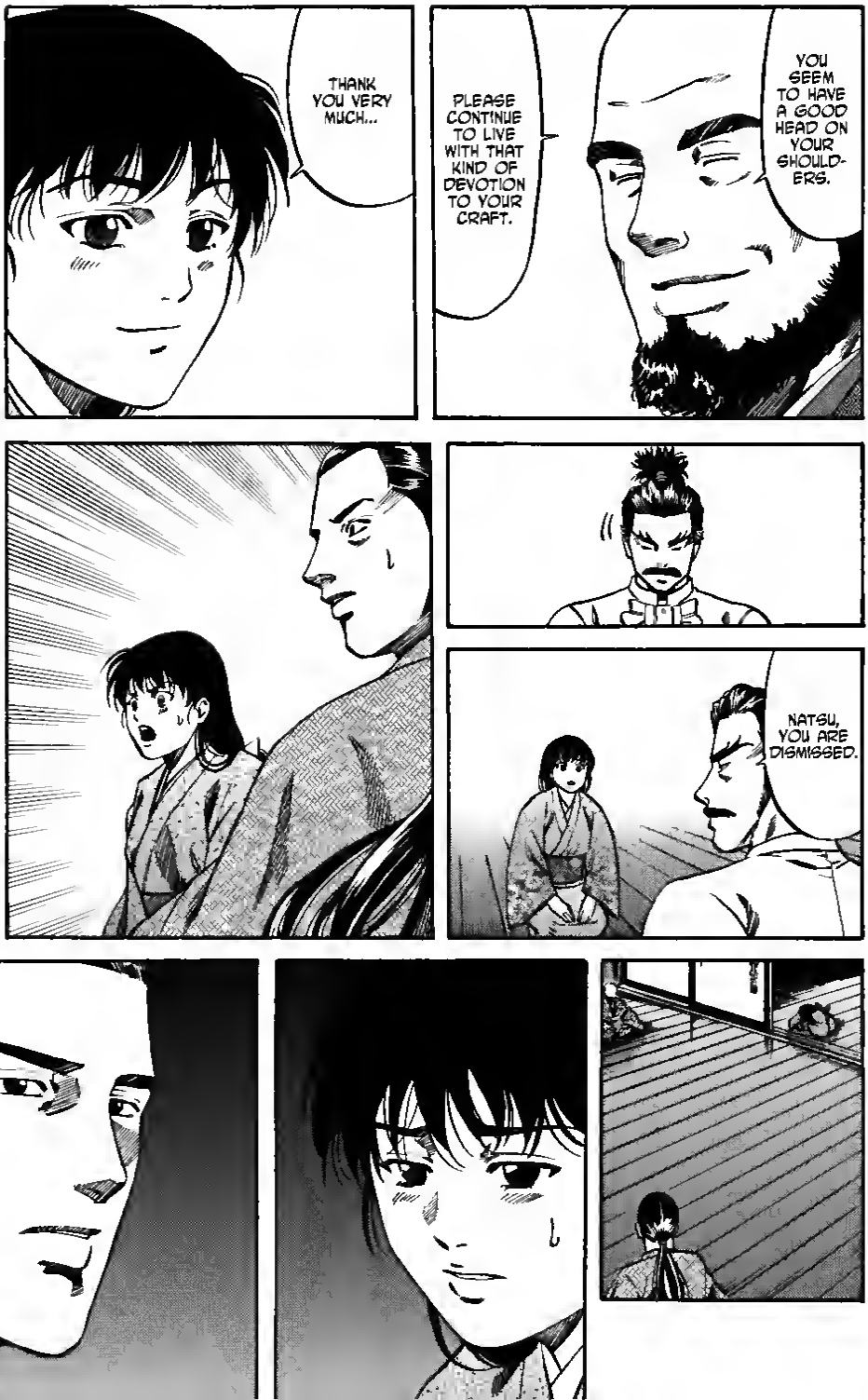
OH... I SEE THAT YOU ARE STILL A VIRGIN THEN!
GRIN


BLUSH

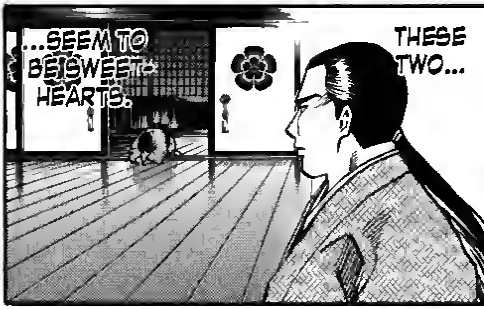
NATSU-DONO, WE WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS SPEARHEAD.
BACK ON TOPIC...
?

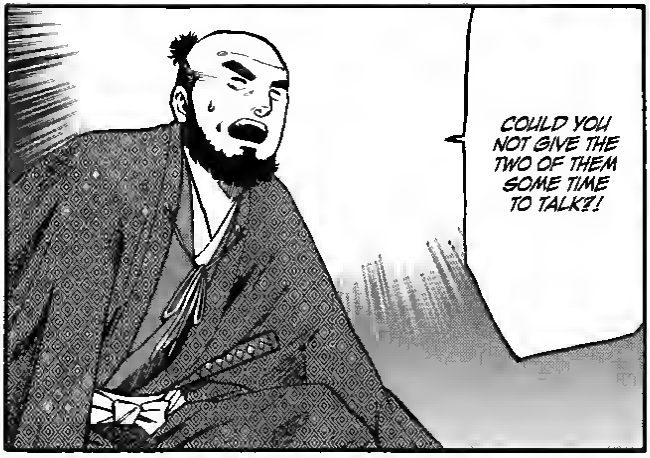
Huh...
SO KEN'S JUST A PUSSY.

WHOA!
GLARE
MENACING


THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
PLEASE CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH THAT KIND OF DEVOTION TO YOUR CRAFT.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE A GOOD HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS.
NATSU, YOU ARE DISMISSED.

TO FORCE THEM APART AFTER SO BRIEF A MEETING IS PITIABLE...


...SEEM TO BE SWEET-HEARTS.
THESE TWO...


COULD YOU NOT GIVE THE TWO OF THEM SOME TIME TO TALK?!

MY LORD!

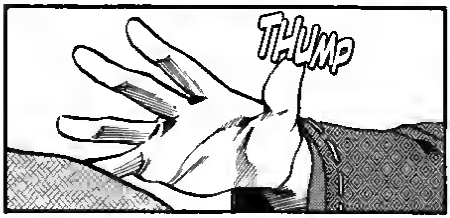
I HUMBLY ASK YOU...
...AS YOUR LOYAL AND DEVOTED SERVANT.

WHAT A BUSY-BODY...
BUT NOBUNAGA-SAMA IS NOT A MAN WHO IS MOVED BY THAT KIND OF PITEOUS SENTIMENT.
VERY WELL.
BUT ONLY IN MY PRESENCE.
THANK YOU, MY LORD!
HMPH
MORI-DONO ALWAYS GETS HIS WAY WITH HIM.

MORI-SAMA, WHY WOULD YOU SHOW SUCH KINDNESS TO SOMEONE LIKE ME...?
WHY...?

NOW NOW...
PLEASE GO SPEAK TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

MY COOKING ...?
IF I MUST GIVE A REASON, THEN MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR COOKING..


THUMP

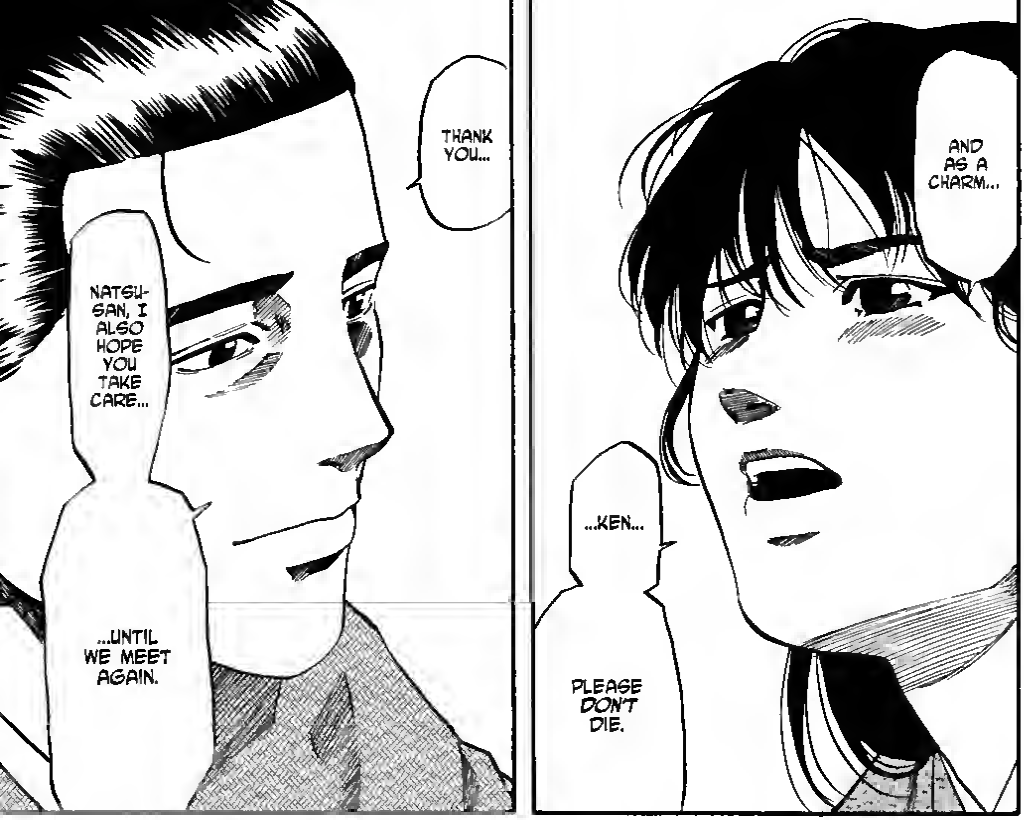
I BELIEVE YOUR SPIRIT AS A CHEF WAS REFLECTED IN THAT CUISINE.
IT HAD A STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND SINCERE FLAVOR THAT SEEMED TO CONCEAL NO LIES.

61
LENCE...
...
...

HEY, KEN... THIS IS PRETTY EMBARRASSING, ISN'T IT...?
...TO BE LIKE THIS IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.
I'VE MISSED YOU...
...NATSU-SAN...

YOSHI-NARI.
TOMORROW, WE BEGIN THE SUBJUGATION OF SOUTHERN ISE.
I AM SENDING KEN WITH YOUR DETACHMENT AS A FIELD COOK.
SWIP
MINE, MY LORD ...?!
IT APPEARS THAT YOU AND KEN GET ALONG...
SHOW ME IF KEN'S TALENTS CAN BE USEFUL IN OUR WAR EFFORT.

WAR...
YES!
YES, MY LORD!
TO-MORROW, WE RISE EARLY!
SO WE SHALL PART WAYS WHILE THE NIGHT IS YOUNG!
GRAB
WHAT'S THIS...?
A MIRROR...
PERHAPS YOU WILL REMEMBER SOMETHING IF YOU CAN SEE YOUR FACE'S REFLECTION.

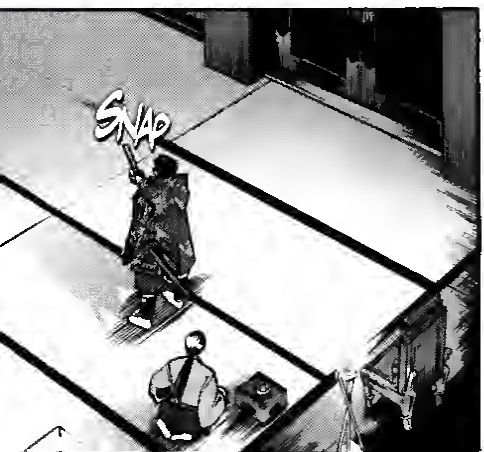

THANK YOU...
NATSU-SAN, I ALSO HOPE YOU TAKE CARE...
...UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.
AND AS A CHARM...
...KEN...
PLEASE DON'T DIE.

HAVE KEN PREPARE ME A MEAL.
BUT INSTRUCT HIM NOT TO USE ANY ABALONE, DRIED CHESTNUT, OR KONBU DISHES, OR ANY OF THAT OLD NONSENSE.
CLACK
CLACK
SQUEEZE
STRIKE, WIN, REJOICE.
SO HE WANTS ME TO MAKE A MEAL USING INGREDIENTS OTHER THAN THOSE TRADITIONALLY USED BEFORE SETTING OFF FOR BATTLE...?

T/N: There's an old saying in Japan that before battle, a meal should contain five 'strikes' of abalone, seven 'winning' chestnuts, and five 'rejoices' of konbu. These are all puns, 'strikes' referring to how the abalone's shell is opened, 'winning' chestnuts spelled like 'dried' chestnuts, and the konbu slices, which represent rejoicing. This is to be drunk with three cups of sake, before, after, and in between each food.

ASSORTED CUTS OF SALMON OVER RICE.
YOU TOO WILL RETURN, VICTORIOUS, FROM THE FIELD OF BATTLE.
BECAUSE SALMON ALWAYS RETURN TO THE RIVER WHERE THEY WERE BORN.
WHY SALMON?
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SALMON AFTER IT RETURNS TO ITS RIVER?
..I WAS ABOUT TO SAY, BUT..
NOT BAD...

WELL? WHAT HAPPENS?
OH NO...
IT PERI-SHES.



*T/N Geten is the 5th circle of the Buddhist Hell, the hell of desire and greed. Supposedly one day in Geten equals 800 years in the mortal world, so this poem is comparing the time difference between the two worlds. Note that there is a passage omitted between this line and the next one on this page that continues 'like an ephemeral illusion.'

**This is a famous poem from Atsumori, a Noh play written in the early 1400s. It was known to have been often sung by Nobunaga. The next line in the poem, which is omitted on this page, continues '..must necessarily die someday.'

INDEED! THOSE WHO LIVE...
...WILL INEVITABLY DIE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
THAT WILL BE YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT.
SUPPORT YOSHINARI'S DETACHMENT WITH YOUR COOKING!
WE'RE MOVING OUT!

SCS

PRESENTS

NOBUNAGA NO CHEF

CREDITS

TRANSLATOR: TALLRICE

PROOFREADER: FALLACY

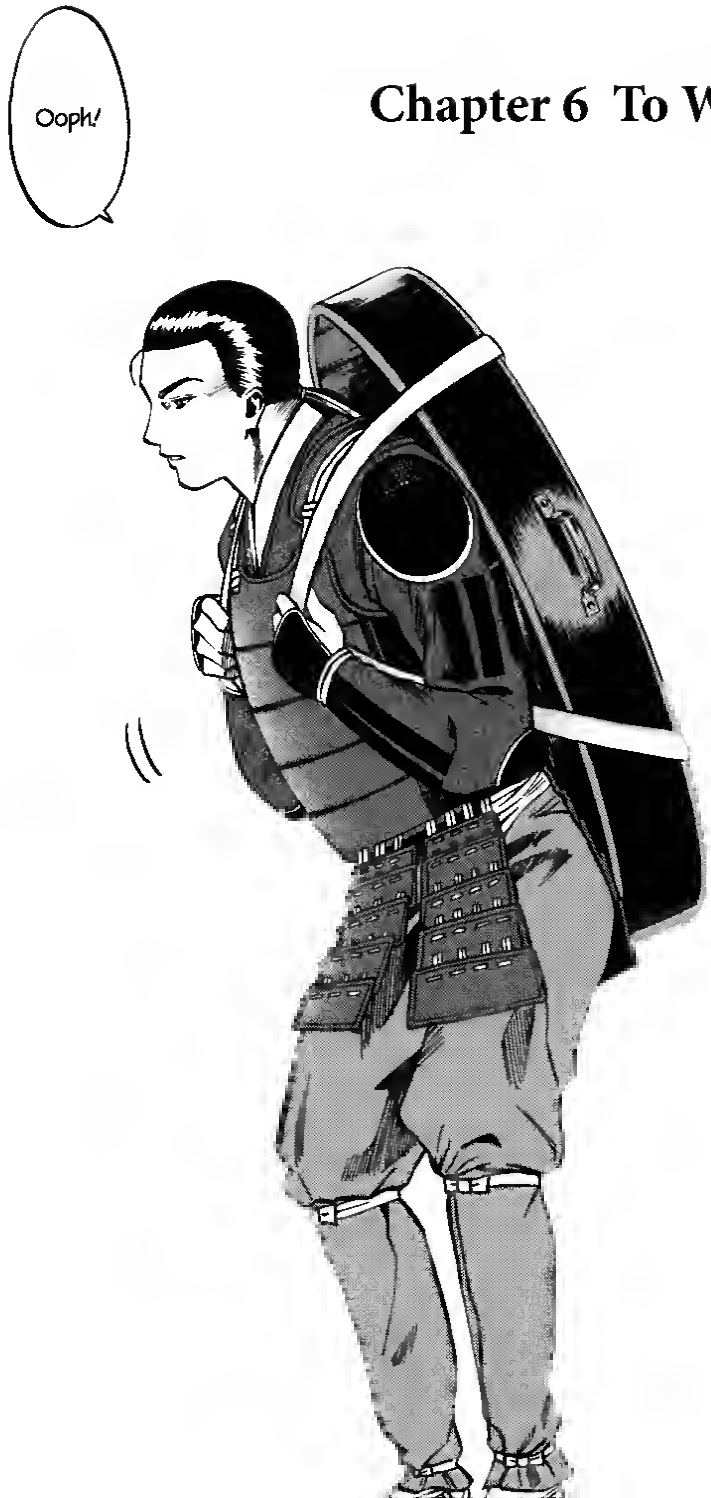
EDITOR: FALLACY

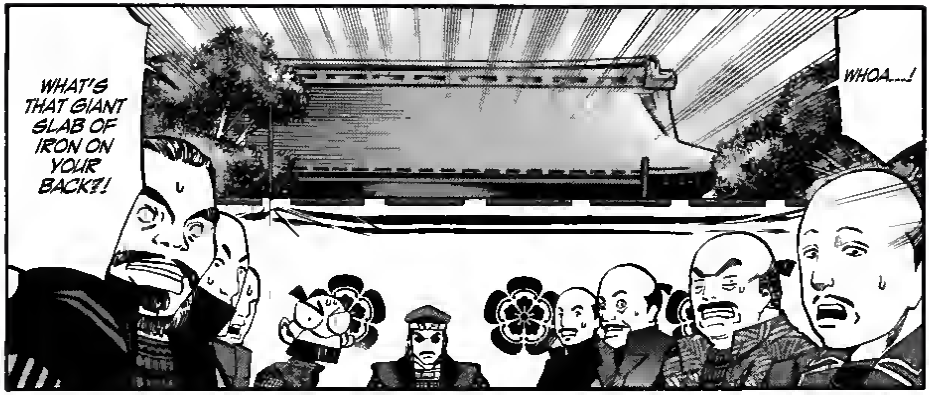
QC: PIMELEA

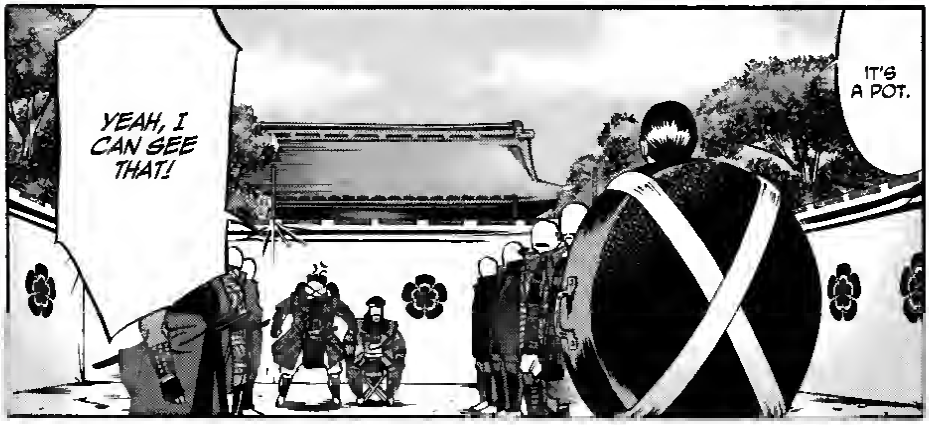
Chapter 6

CLA
CLACK
STRAP
CLICK
VERY GOOD.
Hmm?
YOU'RE LOOKING MORE LIKE A SOLDIER NOW!

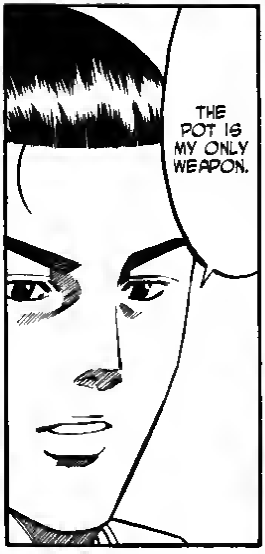
Chapter 6 To War!

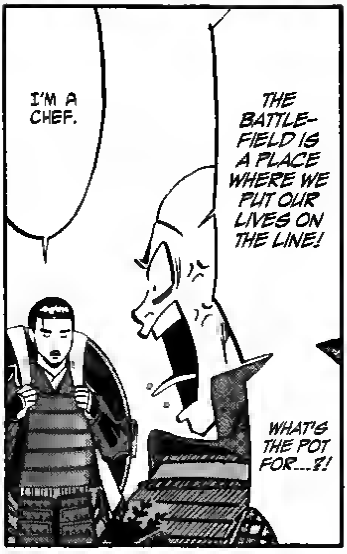



WHAT'S THAT GIANT SLAB OF IRON ON YOUR BACK?!
WHOA...!


YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT!
IT'S A POT.

HUH?! WHAT USE WILL THAT THING BE...?
WHISK
THAT'S ENOUGH, SARU.


THE POT IS MY ONLY WEAPON.


I'M A CHEF.
THE BATTLE-FIELD IS A PLACE WHERE WE PUT OUR LIVES ON THE LINE!
WHAT'S THE POT FOR...?!

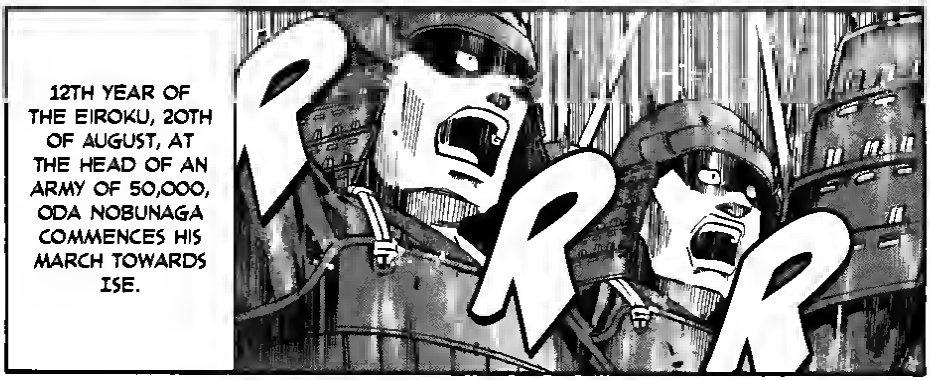
BRING ME MY STEED!
YES, MY LORD!

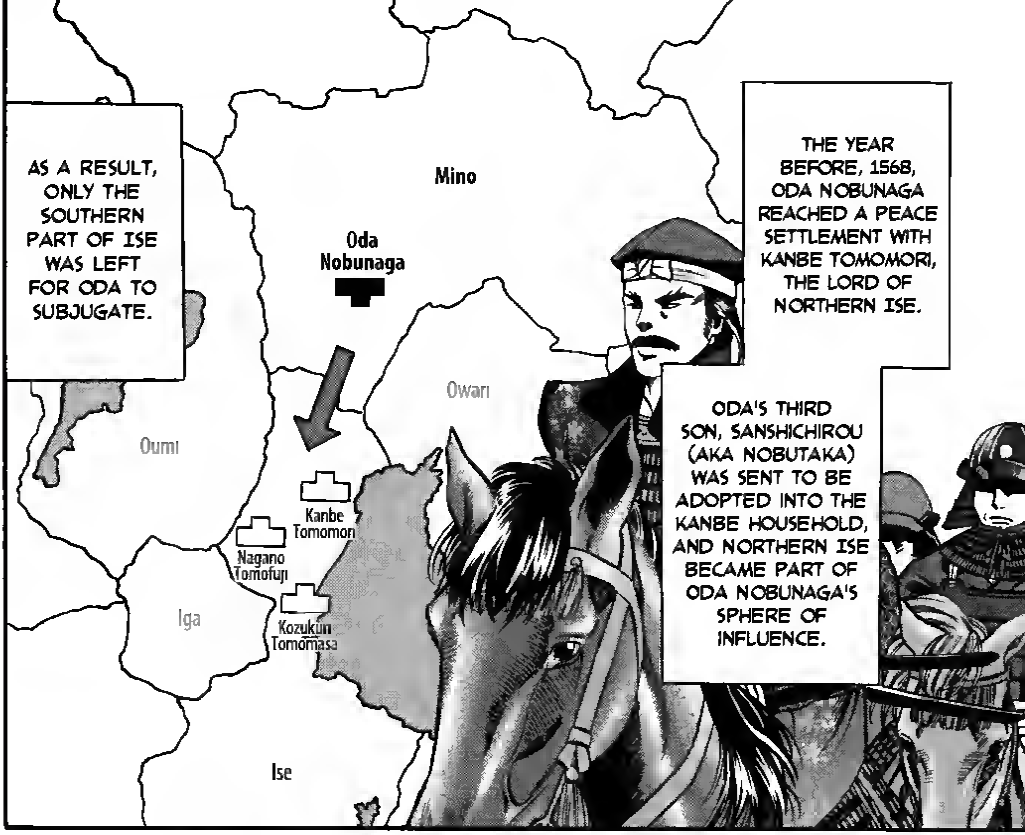
WE WILL JUST HAVE TO PRAY THAT KEN DOESN'T GET IN THE WAY TOO MUCH.

GR
FAK

IN ORDER TO CONQUER ALL UNDER HEAVEN, WE MUST FIRST TAKE ISE FROM KITABATAKE.
MEN! JOIN THE FRAY! FIGHT FOR GLORY!

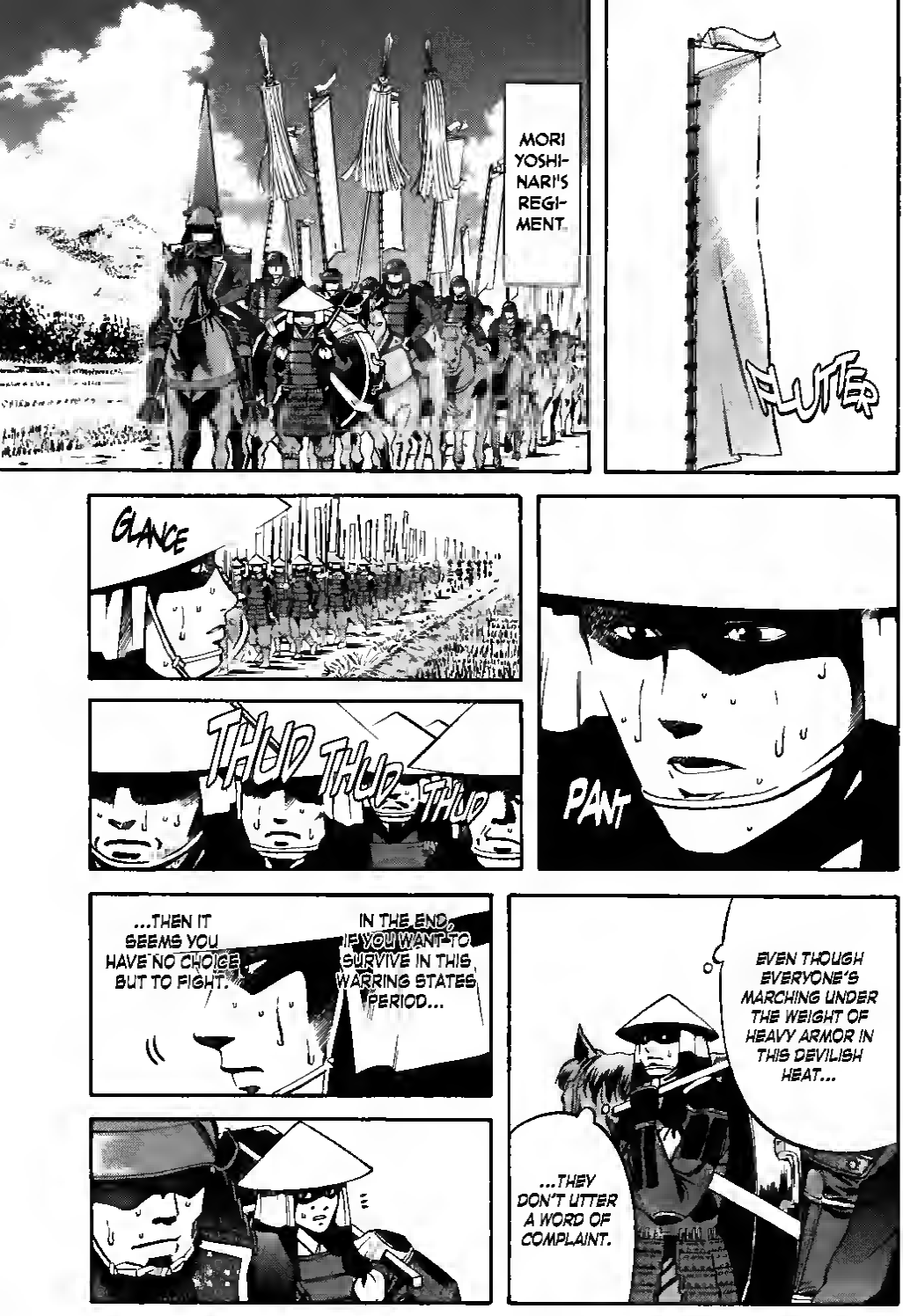
RRROAR

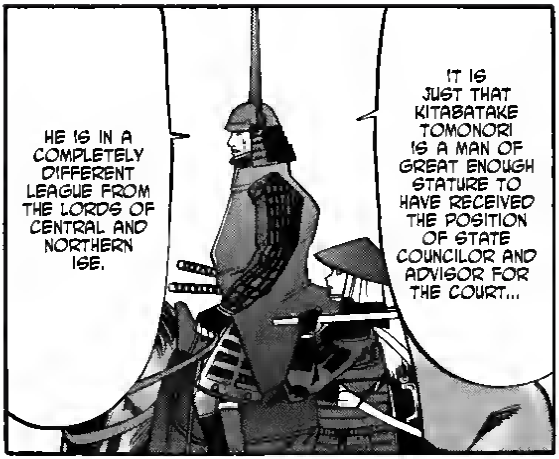

12TH YEAR OF THE EIROKU, 20TH OF AUGUST, AT THE HEAD OF AN ARMY OF 50,000, ODA NOBUNAGA COMMENCES HIS MARCH TOWARDS ISE.
RRR

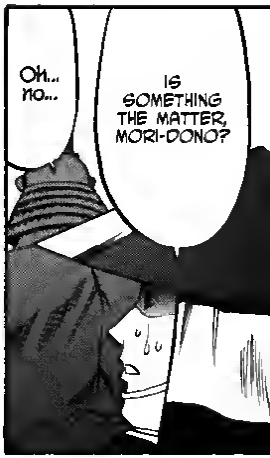

AS A RESULT, ONLY THE SOUTHERN PART OF ISE WAS LEFT FOR ODA TO SUBJUGATE.
Mino
Oda Nobunaga
Owari
Oumi
Kanbe Tomomori
Nagano Tomofuji
Iga
Kozukun Tomomasa
Ise
THE YEAR BEFORE, 1568, ODA NOBUNAGA REACHED A PEACE SETTLEMENT WITH KANBE TOMOMORI, THE LORD OF NORTHERN ISE.
ODA'S THIRD SON, SANSHICHIROU (AKA NOBUTAKA) WAS SENT TO BE ADOPTED INTO THE KANBE HOUSEHOLD, AND NORTHERN ISE BECAME PART OF ODA NOBUNAGA'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

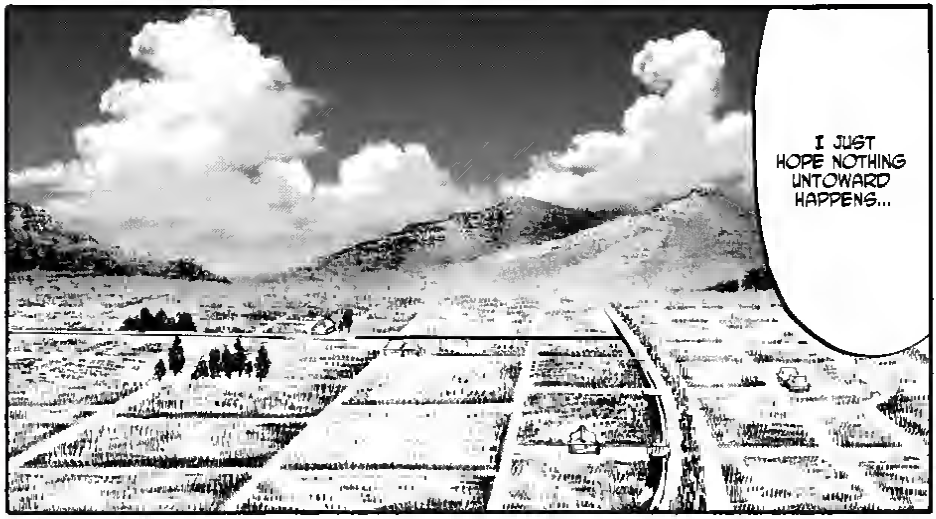
HE MET ODA'S ARMY WITH THE STRENGTH OF 16,000 SOLDIERS EVENLY SPREAD AMONG SIX FORTIFICATIONS.
HOWEVER, KITABATAKE TOMONORI, THE POWERFUL HEAD OF THE KITABAKE LORDS OF SOUTHERN ISE, DESPITE THE OVERWHELMING MIGHT OF NOBUNAGA'S ARMY, REFUSED TO SURRENDER.

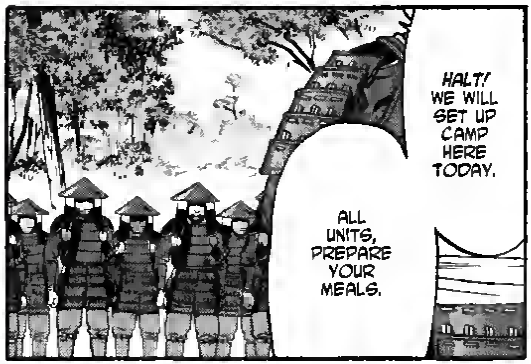
I'LL MAKE SURE TO SUCCEED IN MY ATTACK AGAINST HIS CENTRAL CITADEL AT OOKAWACHI!
SARU, YOSHINARI, I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO QUELL HIS FORCES AT ASAKA CASTLE TO THE NORTH.
THAT DAMN TOMO-NORI...

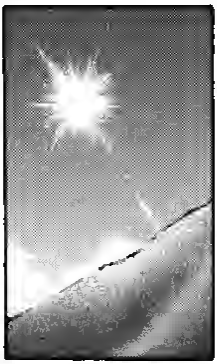

MORI YOSHI-NARI'S REGI-MENT.
FLUTTER
GLANCE
THUD THUD THUD
PANT
...THEN IT SEEMS YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT.
IN THE END, IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE IN THIS WARRING STATES PERIOD...
EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE'S MARCHING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF HEAVY ARMOR IN THIS DEVILISH HEAT...
...THEY DON'T UTTER A WORD OF COMPLAINT.

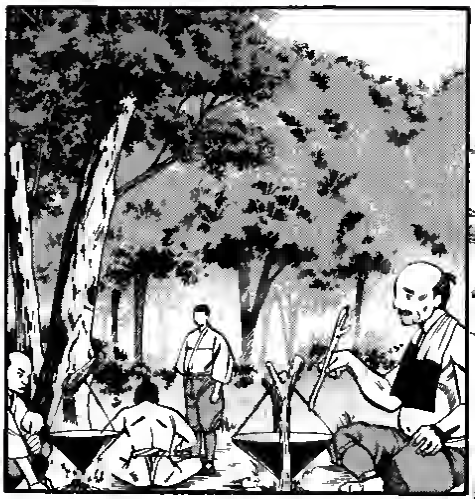

HE IS IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEAGUE FROM THE LORDS OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN ISE.
IT IS JUST THAT KITABATAKE TOMONORI IS A MAN OF GREAT ENOUGH STATURE TO HAVE RECEIVED THE POSITION OF STATE COUNCILOR AND ADVISOR FOR THE COURT...


IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, MORI-DONO?
OH... NO...

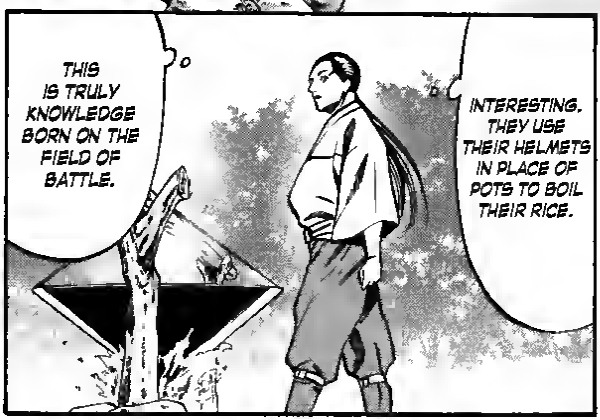

I JUST HOPE NOTHING UNTOWARD HAPPENS...

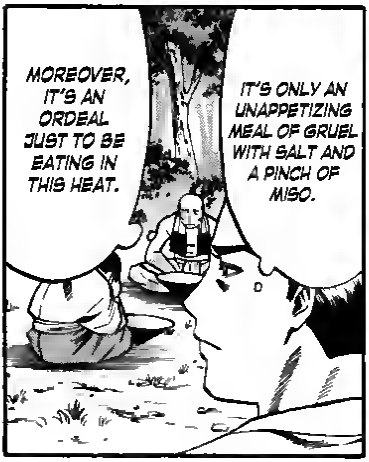

HALT! WE WILL SET UP CAMP HERE TODAY.
ALL UNITS, PREPARE YOUR MEALS.

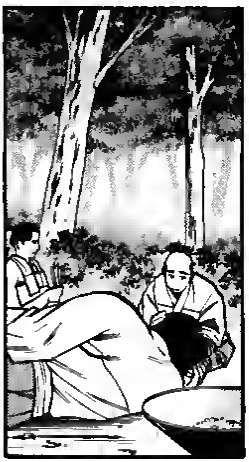


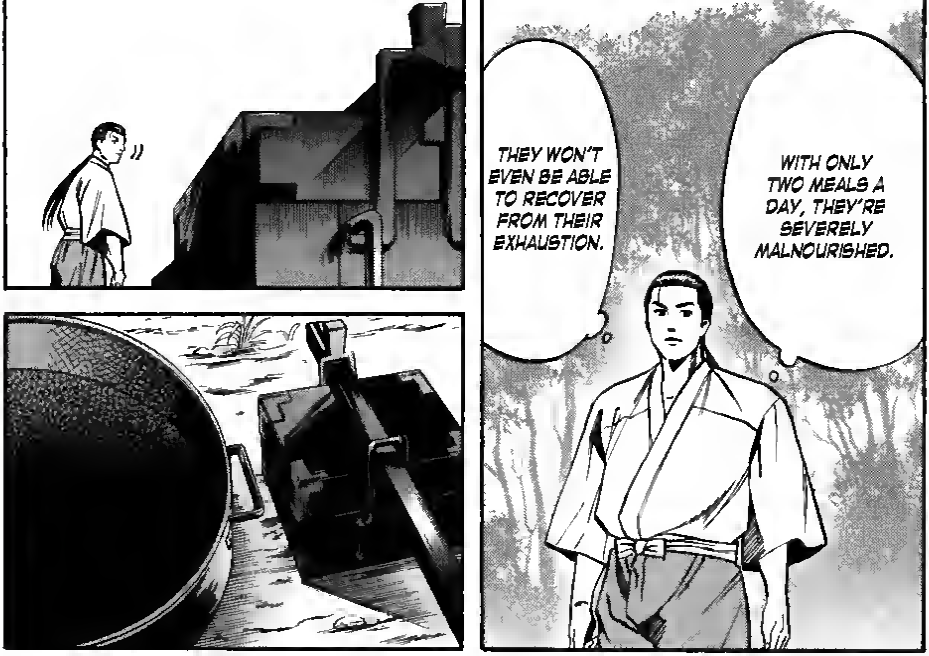


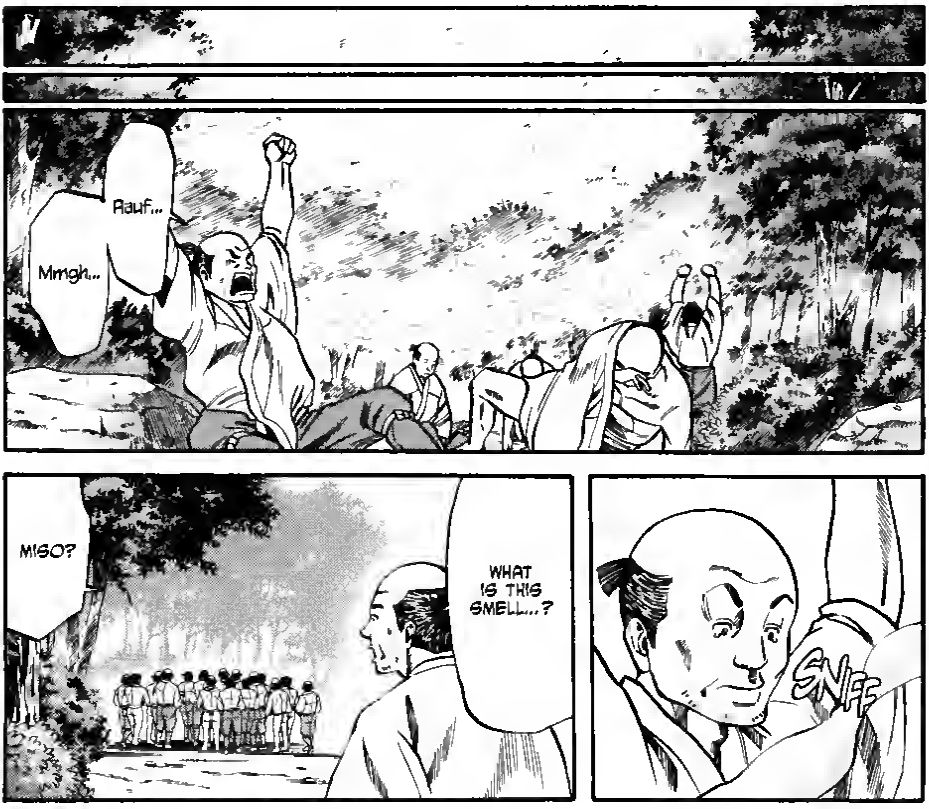
BUT...


THIS IS TRULY KNOWLEDGE BORN ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.
INTERESTING. THEY USE THEIR HELMETS IN PLACE OF POTS TO BOIL THEIR RICE.


MOREOVER, IT'S AN ORDEAL JUST TO BE EATING IN THIS HEAT.
IT'S ONLY AN UNAPPETIZING MEAL OF GRUEL WITH SALT AND A PINCH OF MISO.



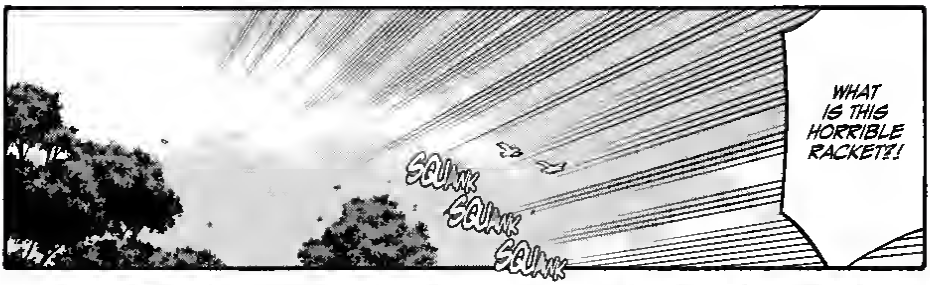

WITH ONLY TWO MEALS A DAY, THEY'RE SEVERELY MALNOURISHED.
THEY WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO RECOVER FROM THEIR EXHAUSTION.


Rauf...
Mmgh...
MISO?
WHAT IS THIS SMELL...?
SNIFF

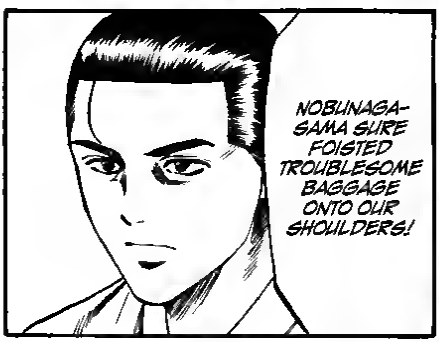
THIS POT HAS A MIXTURE OF SHREDDED, DRIED FISH, KONBU KELP, AND ONION.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
PROTEIN IS NECESSARY TO HELP THE BODY RECOVER FROM PHYSICAL EXHAUSTION...
...WHILE THE VITAMIN B1 AND B2 IN THE KONBU WILL HELP YOUR METABOLISM AND ENERGY LEVELS.
AND... ONCE I ADD THIS GRILLED MISO AND CHILLED WATER...
POUR
WATER?
THE MISO SOUP IS COLD?

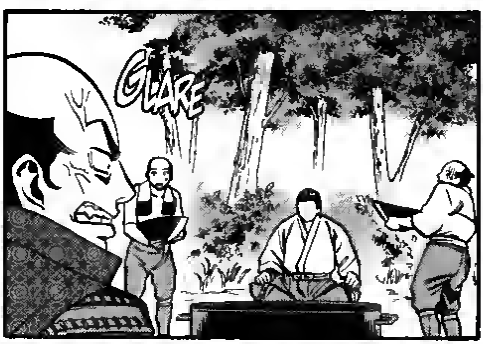
THIS IS A CHILLED SOUP!

WHAT'S THAT!
THERE APPEARS TO BE A LARGE COMMOTION AMONG THE TROOPS!
YOSHI-NARI-SAMA!
I COULD EAT THIS TILL I BURST!
THIS IS AWE-SOME---!
ME TOO!
REALLY? GIVE ME SOME TOO!
I'M NEXT!
DON'T WORRY, THERE'S ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.

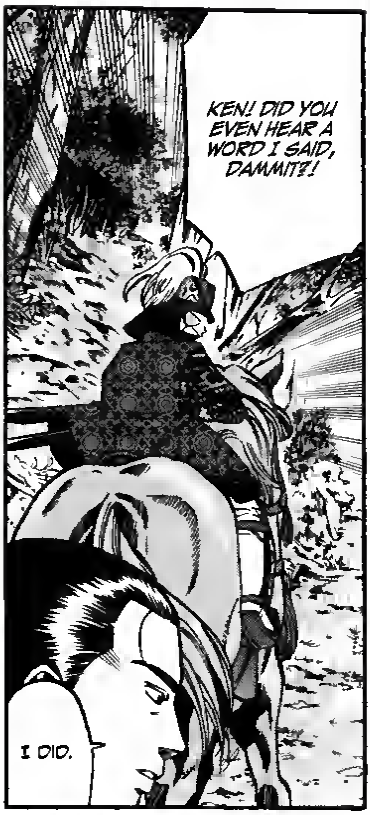

SQUAK
SQUAK
SQUAK
WHAT IS THIS HORRIBLE RACKET?!

I THOUGHT IT WAS ROWDY OVER HERE...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO UNDISCIPLINED RIGHT BEFORE WE ATTACK THE CASTLE?!

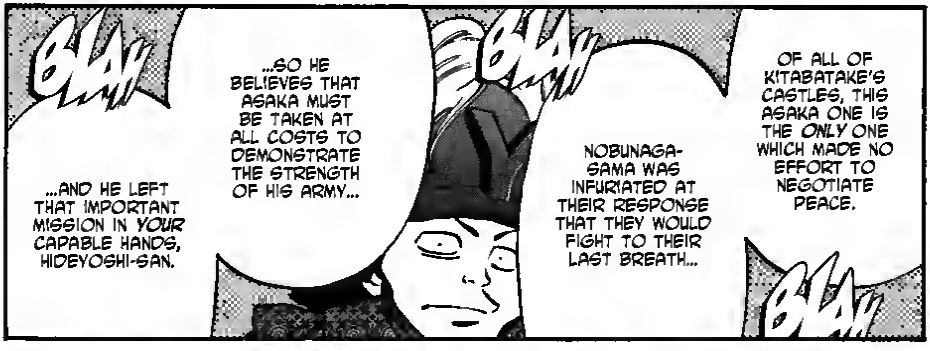

NOBUNAGA-SAMA SURE FOISTED TROUBLESOME BAGGAGE ONTO OUR SHOULDERS!


GLARE

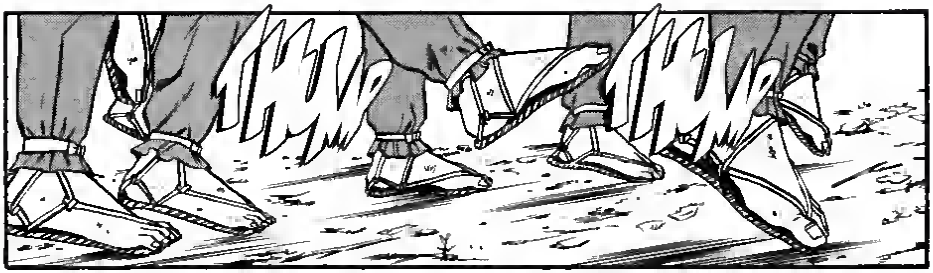
I WILL SHOW HIM THE TRUE MEANING OF WAR....!
I'LL BE TAKING KEN WITH ME!
MORI-DONO!
WHAT...DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH HIM?
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS MAN...
...WHOM YOU ARE BORROWING FROM NOBUNAGA-SAMA.
I GOT IT!

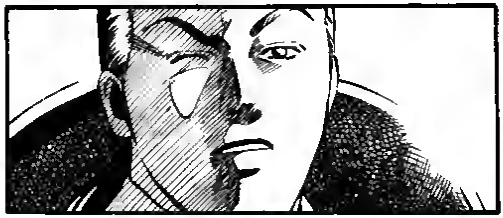

KEN! DID YOU EVEN HEAR A WORD I SAID, DAMMIT?!
I DID.

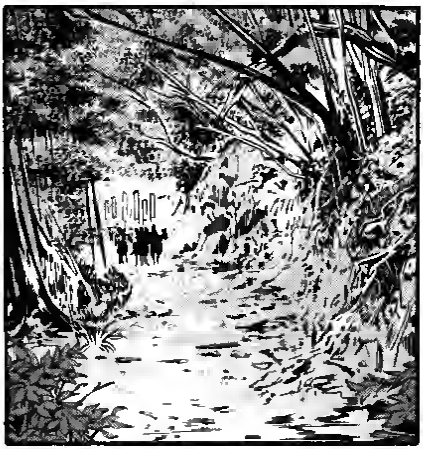
LICORICE ROOT, BAYBERRY, FISHWORT...
THERE ARE SO MANY EDIBLE PLANTS THAT CAN BE HARVESTED.
THIS ERA IS TRULY ABUNDANT WITH NATURE'S BOUNTY.

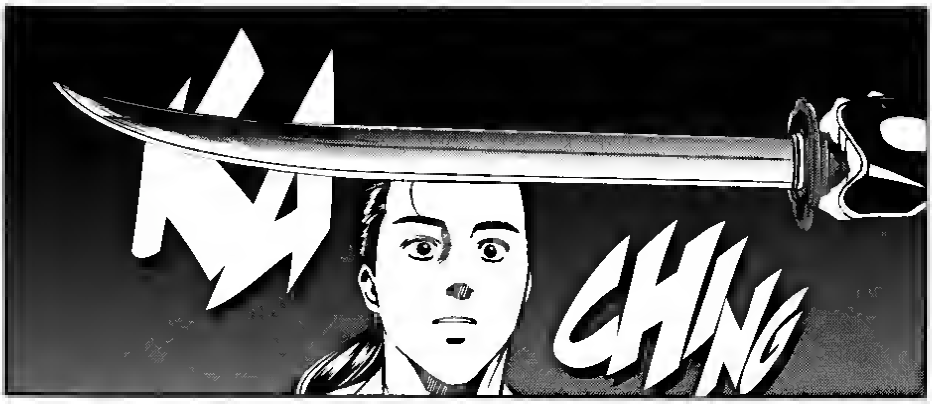

BLAM!
...AND HE LEFT THAT IMPORTANT MISSION IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS, HIDEYOSHI-SAN.
...SO HE BELIEVES THAT ASAKA MUST BE TAKEN AT ALL COSTS TO DEMONSTRATE THE STRENGTH OF HIS ARMY...
BLAM!
NOBUNAGA-SAMA WAS INFURIATED AT THEIR RESPONSE THAT THEY WOULD FIGHT TO THEIR LAST BREATH...
OF ALL OF KITABATAKE'S CASTLES, THIS ASAKA ONE IS THE ONLY ONE WHICH MADE NO EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE PEACE.
BLAM!

IF YOU KNOW ALL THAT, THEN ACT A BIT MORE SERIOUSLY HERE!
GRR...


THUD
THUD



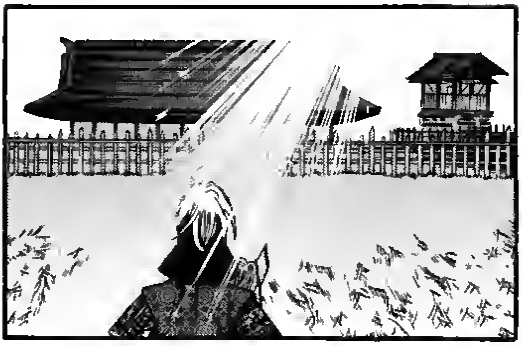



CHING

SHI
ING

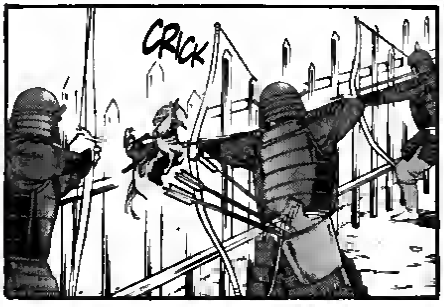
CHARGE!
TO THE SUMMIT!

A REAL WAR BEGINS BEFORE MY EYES...
WAR...

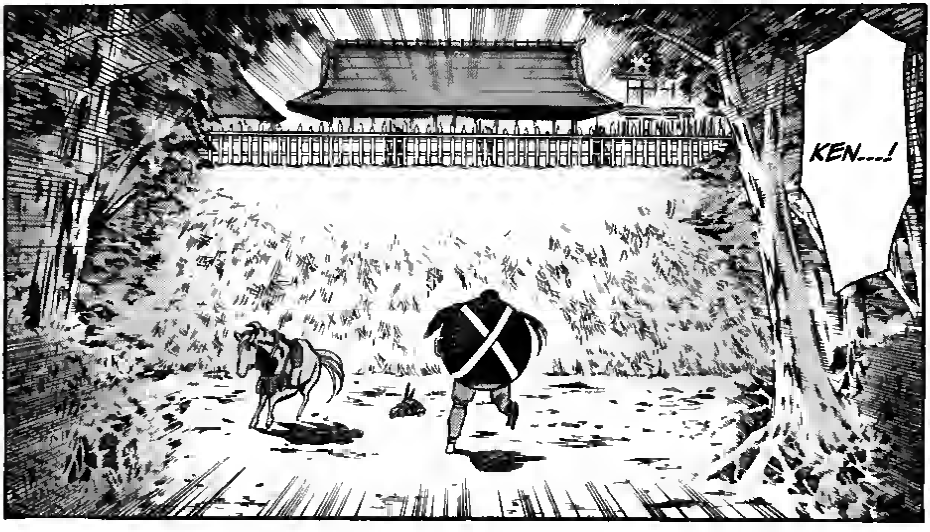


TCH...
WUK

WHA-
WHAT JUST
HAPPENED?!


CRICK

CLANK
HIDE-
YOSHI-
GAN!


KEN...!

SCS

PRESENTS

NOBUNAGA NO CHEF

CREDITS

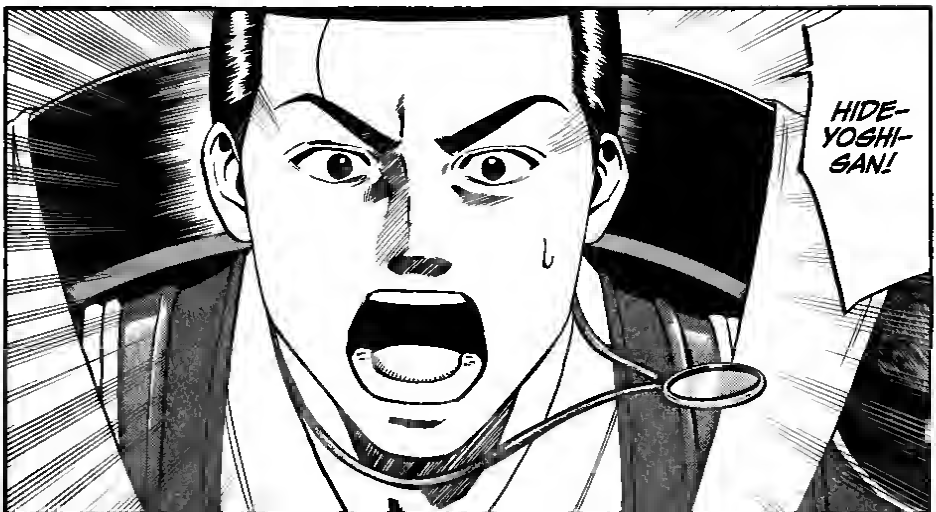
TRANSLATOR: TALLRICE

PROOFREADER: FALLACY

EDITOR: FALLACY

QC: PIMELEA

CRRR
RRR
ICK


HIDE-YOSHI-SAN!

Chapter 7 What Exists on the Battlefield

YOU FOOL, WHY ARE YOU COMING OVER HERE ---?!
KA-POI
WHISTLE
WHISTLE WHISTLE
CRICK
WOAAAH!
CLANK CLANK CLANK

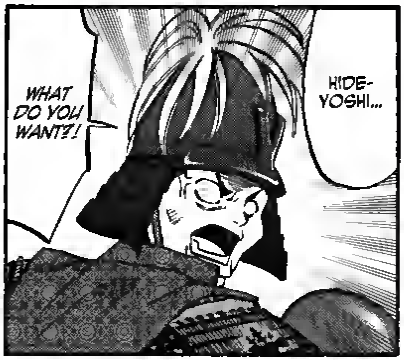
IT'S TOO BRIGHT ---
BRIGHT?!
WHAT'S WRONG?! DID YOU GET HIT BY AN ARROW?! A BULLET?!
UGAAH?!!
LIGHT BULB
SCRUFF
SCRUFF
OWOWOW!
SCRUFF
SCRUFF
CLACK

KEN...
DON'T DIE...
-Pant-
-Pant-
-Pant-
HIDE-YOSHI-SAMA!
WOOSH
HIDE-YOSHI-SAMA!
NATSU-SAN...
THIS IS NOTHING! WE'RE GOING TO ATTACK!
HIDEYOSHI-SAMA... YOU SHOULDN'T FORCE YOURSELF...
THE BASTARDS!

WHAT MENTAL FORTITUDE.
HE REMOVED THE ARROW HIMSELF...

MUNCH MUNCH

PLOP

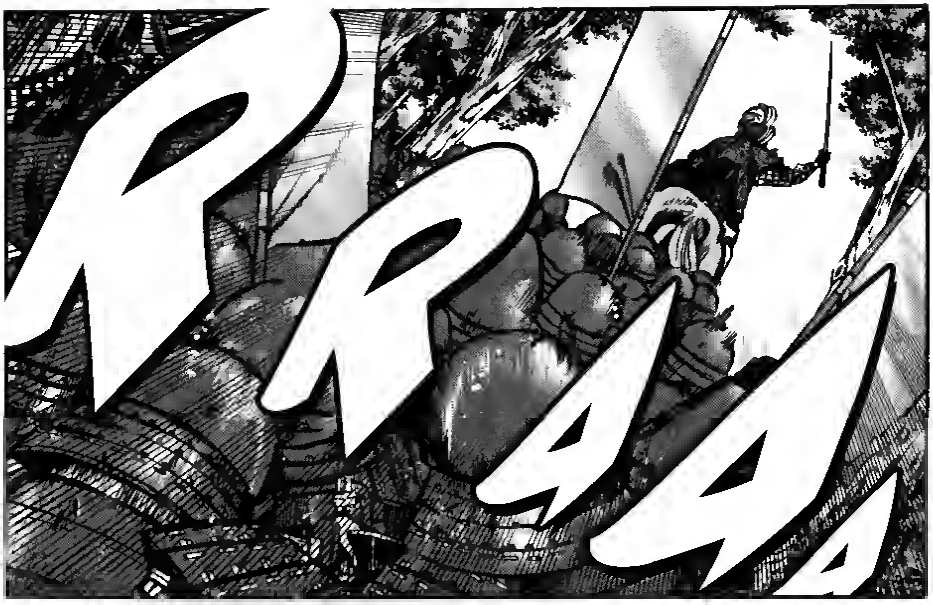

WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
HIDE-YOSHI...

IT'S IN SEASON NOW, AND IT'S EVEN SPICIER THAN THE SUMMER DAIKON.
IT'S A SILVERVINE FRUIT THAT'LL ACT LIKE AN ANALEPTIC TO STIMULATE YOUR BODY.

MY TON-GUE'S ON FIRE!
EE-EEEK!

I REALIZED HE HAD A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE OF NATURE WHEN HE PICKED UP THOSE SHOURO...
...BUT TO THINK THAT HE EVEN HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE BATTLEFIELD...
DO YOU ALWAYS CARRY ONE OF THOSE AROUND WITH YOU?!
NO, I JUST PICKED IT UP ON OUR WAY HERE, ACTUALLY.
EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A POISONED ARROW, WE SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE PRECAUTIONS...
I WONDER HOW...?
THIS SHOULD DO.
I SEE! THE REASON WE WRAP SUSHI OR DANGO IN BAMBOO LEAF ISN'T JUST BECAUSE IT LOOKS ELEGANT...
...BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT HAS DISINFECTANT PROPERTIES.

BY STRAPPING THE MUSCLES AND LIGAMENTS, YOUR INJURED LEG WILL BE REINFORCED.
I JUST APPLIED SOME TAPING.
KEN, WHAT DID YOU DO?
OH! I CAN STAND!
HOW... DO I KNOW THIS KIND OF THING?
CAPTURE ASAKA CASTLE!
NOW THEN, MOKUSHITA HIDEYOSHI IS ON THE ATTACK!
Huh?


KRADA

KEN!

AG..

HE JUST LEFT FOR THE CASTLE...
AH, YEAH...

VERY WELL!

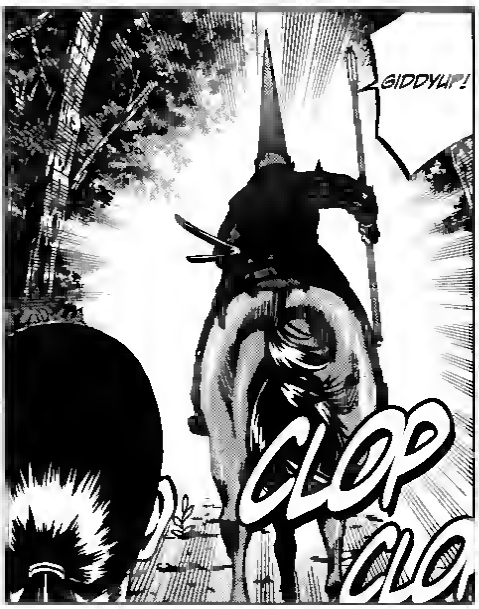
IS HIDE-YOSHI-DONO SAFE?

FOLLOW HIDEYOSHI-DONO!
FORWARD MARCH, TROOPS!

NOBUNAGA-SAMA DIDN'T SEND YOU HERE TO FIGHT.
YOU STAY BACK HERE.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHETHER THEY WILL LASH OUT.
STILL, WATCH OUT FOR THE WOUNDED AND ANYONE TRYING TO FLEE

IF ANYONE COMES THIS WAY...
...KILL THEM.


GIDDYUP!
CLOP
CLO

I'M EXPECTED TO...?
KILL...?

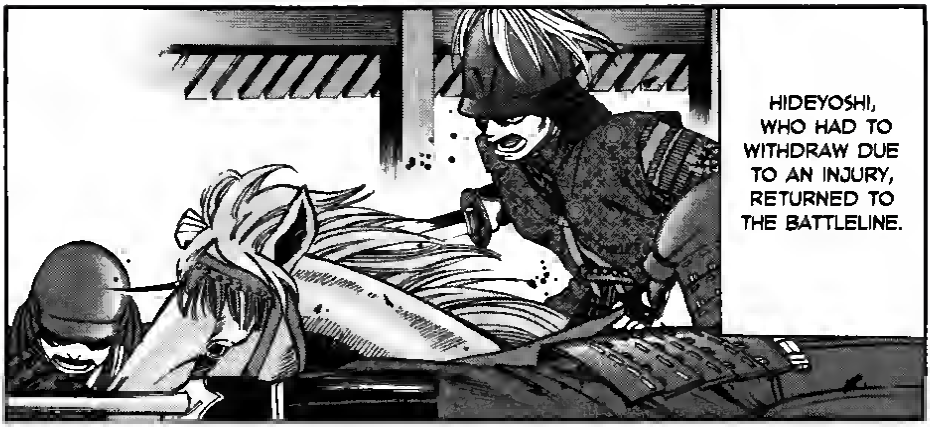
WAAAH
THUMP THUMP
SHING
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
Y-YOU....!

TRMMBL
TRMMBL
TRMMBL
SHOCK
THEY'LL KEEP YOUR STRENGTH UP IF YOU EAT THEM.
THERE ARE GOJI BERRIES INSIDE.

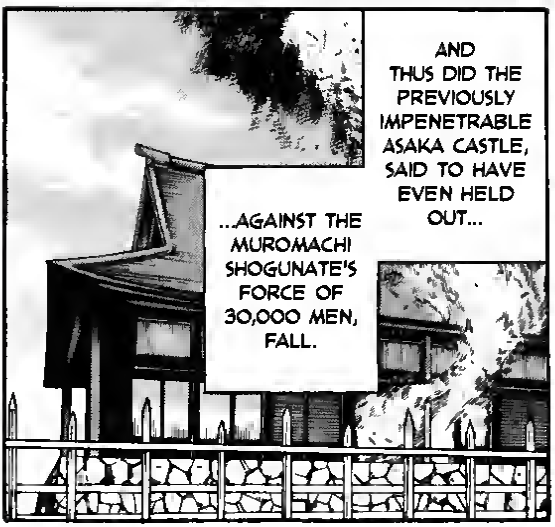
WOOF!
...
...FOR ME TO KILL ANOTHER PERSON.
IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE...
THE BITCH IS HOLDING A KNIFE!
WHO GOES THERE?!

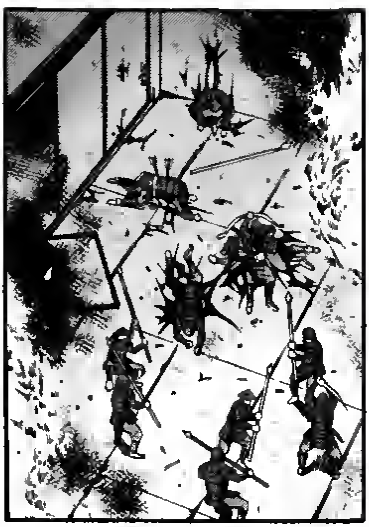
EEK...
STAB
SLASH
SLASH
NOOOOO!
PLEASE, PLEASE HAVE MERCY...

22ND OF AUGUST, 1569.
AS PART OF ODA NOBUNAGA'S ASSAULT, HIDEYOSHI AND MORI'S ARMY DIVISIONS TOOK ASAKA CASTLE.


HIDEYOSHI, WHO HAD TO WITHDRAW DUE TO AN INJURY, RETURNED TO THE BATTLELINE.

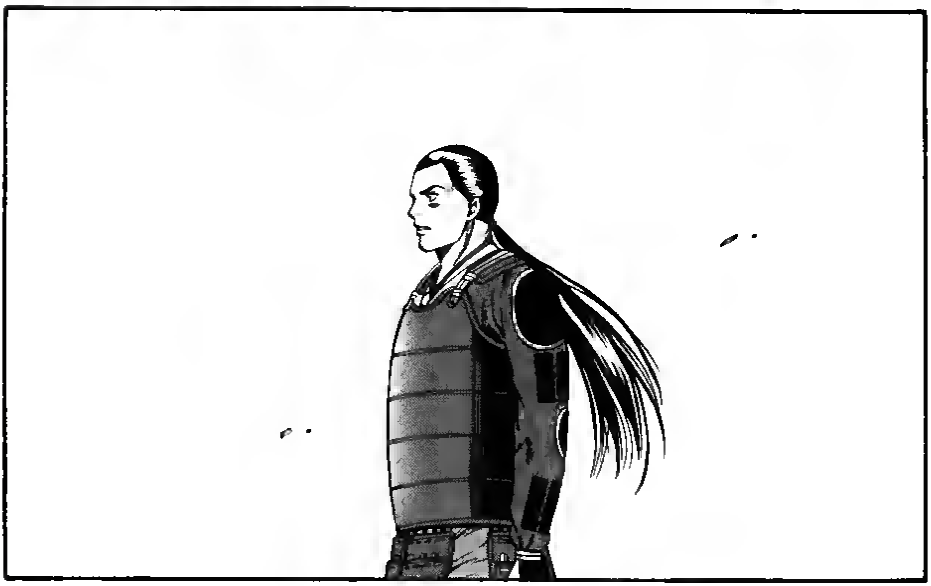
THEIR ATTACK WAS RECORDED IN HISTORY AS BEING QUICK LIKE WILDFIRE.


AND THUS DID THE PREVIOUSLY IMPENETRABLE ASAKA CASTLE, SAID TO HAVE EVEN HELD OUT...
...AGAINST THE MUROMACHI SHOGUNATE'S FORCE OF 30,000 MEN, FALL.



...HAS CAPTURED ASAKA CASTLE!
MOKUSHITA TOUKICHIROU HIDEYOSHI...

FLUTTER
FLUTTER



THEY TOOK THE CASTLE IN A SINGLE DAY...

Nobunaga no Chef 1 END

Food from the Warring States Period

Text and recipe by Nishimura Mitsuru

Column

"An army marches on its stomach" 腹が減っては戦ができぬ (If the stomach is empty, you can't wage a war") Just as these two folk sayings imply, since ancient times, both in the East and West, the logistician and supplies manager has been one of the most important and most difficult duties in the army

If we look back at food supplied to troops in the Warring States Period, we see that it was very crude and simple (alas!). Foot soldiers, who were pressed into service, were by and large expected to provide for themselves, and often as not, brought dried rice. They would boil rice, then remove any of the glutinous coating on the rice before drying it in an oven. They would then chew on that when camping on the battlefield, or add water to make it softer before eating it. Another food source was imogara. Imogara was made by tying the stalks of the taro vegetable up like a rope and boiling them in miso.

Then, at camp, they would chop up the taro stalks and boil them to make an imogara miso soup. If there was an extended battle, then the soldiers would be forced to forage on site. First, they would eat the horses and grass and would apparently even resort to eating pine tree bark. Apparently, the reason many castles have pine tree groves was precisely for this reason.

Oda Nobunaga was said to be so indifferent about food that he would often just eat yuzuke (rice covered in boiling water) while standing, but I'm sure that hemore than most would understand that food, as a military provision, has the power to move people's bodies and souls... Or so I'd like to imagine. And that was my inspiration for this story, the story of Ken, who does his best to live through the Warring States Period armed solely with his knowledge of food and cooking. I hope all our readers will cheer us on.

Recipe

Yuzuke: Nobunaga Style

For the filling

1. Dice duck thighs (or chicken thighs if you don't have duck), carrots, daikon, and shimeji mushrooms.
2. Stir fry until browned in cooking oil in a pot.
3. Add some miso and salt to taste.

For the rice ball

4. Squeeze the rice into an onigiri shape firmly, making sure that the stuffing is inside.
5. Fill a deep pot with cooking oil about half way and heat the oil to a low temperature (around 150° C) and fry the rice balls in it. Turn it with chopsticks until it is golden on all sides.
6. Place the fried rice ball in a bowl and before eating, cover it in boiling water.

T/N: Nishimura-sensei lists his historical sources for the manga at the bottom of the page, but as you're reading a scanlation and thus are unlikely to delve into Japanese Warring States Period history books, I took the liberty of omitting this